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THURSDAY, JULY 21ST, 2011

Local politician takes on a national role

A local politician, Andrew RT Davies AM, has won the election to become the new leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the National Assembly.

Mr Davies, Assembly regional member for South Wales Central, gained 53 per cent of the vote, and his rival for the leadership Nick Ramsay AM took 47 per cent.

Mr Davies told The GEM: "I was born and brought up in the Vale of Glamorgan – it runs through my DNA – and I aim to champion causes that will benefit the people of the Vale and Wales."

For more on Mr Davies's election victory, please turn to page 20.

MoD St Athan set for role as base for Special Forces Support Group

MILITARY operations are due to expand at St Athan in the future, but local people will probably never know the full details of what is planned.

It is believed that the Special Forces Support Group will be expanded and that as many as 1,000 posts could be involved.

The news follows the conclusion of a defence spending review.

The Defence Secretary, Liam Fox, has promised to make a visit to the Vale in the future to explain in more detail just what the Ministry of Defence want to do.

Alun Cairns, the Vale's MP, said: "There will be a significant expansion on the site and it will become a centre of excellence for Special Forces support."

One thing is certain: it is the end of the dream of a 21st century defence college.

For the full story, please turn to page 3.

Centenary celebrations at Llangan Primary. (See page 23for a report and more photographs).

Former Cowbridge Student is as good as Gold

BARNABY Milbourn, who the Wall Street Journal last week called "some smart businessman" left Cowbridge in 1994 to study geology and has since become a UK authority on the role of Gold & Silver in today's economy.

Now Barnaby is bringing his ground-breaking Gold & Silver Seminar home to Wales and as he is 'at home' he will be offering his information packed programme FREE of charge!

Gold is big news today; much sought after and at record prices. Unlike shares, it's risen 600% in 10 years. Silver is up 225% in the last 12 months. Try to get that kind of interest rate on your bank savings!

Barnaby says "Some businesses are as good as Gold, this one IS Gold, it brings the benefit of Gold ownership within the reach of small investors and savers". Through his companies **Zen Gold & Zen Gold Partners** investors can develop their own business and create a residual income whilst saving Gold & Silver. Zen Gold have also recently launched the UKs first Gold vending machine at Westfield Shopping Centre in London.

Gold & Silver Seminar - Cardiff Bay
Tuesday 26th July 6.30 - 9.00pm

Limited places available, find out more and...
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www.cardiffgoldandsilver.eventbrite.com
or call 0843 289 4011 to reserve your place!

The Town Council welcomes Waitrose
– but with a 'wish list' of adjustments

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

MEMBERS of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council have welcomed the plan to bring a Waitrose foodstore to the town – although they have expressed a number of areas of concern.

The planning application, made by RS Bird Ltd, will soon go before the Vale Council's planning committee, which has the final say.

If councillors on that committee are sufficiently impressed by the town council's areas of concern, then they could lay down conditions and ask the developers to comply.

Representatives of the RS Bird and Waitrose plan recently met town councillors and answered questions about the plan.

After that meeting, members of the town council planning committee met and formulated their 'wish list'.

The most serious reservation appears to be that there is no provision for staff parking at Waitrose.

Councillors felt, in the light of the proposed development at the cattle market site, that Waitrose staff parking elsewhere in Cowbridge would lead to a "net loss" of parking spaces in the town as a whole.

A second reservation is the proposed re-routing of the existing footpath that starts at Twt Park and skirts the old Hurrans site, before meeting the High Street at Martins newsagents.

The re-routing will take a more direct line through the new shoppers' car park, but councillors want it to continue to skirt the perimeter.

Coun Marian Arnold favoured a path that follows (roughly) the existing route, which could be shielded with trees.

However, other councillors said that the creation of a 'river walk' on the opposite side of the development would be an asset to the town.

Other concerns aired by the planning committee concern the materials used in constructing the foodstore. Because it is in a conservation area, it was argued that more use should be made of stone and local materials.

Some town councillors are still concerned about traffic congestion where Birds Lane joins the High Street, while Coun Nicola Thomas was concerned about the noise made by delivery vehicles.

She argued that a turntable should be included at the store, so that lorries could turn around quietly, rather than disturbing local residents with the noise of their air brakes.

Another matter of concern was that the outside smoking area was visible from the children's playground, and councillors said that this would be a bad example.

It was also felt that tree planting should be done to improve the privacy of homes that back on to the River Thaw.

The GEM spoke to Jeff Bird of RS Bird, who said: "I welcome the support of the town council.

"Of course, we will be happy to discuss the issues raised as the scheme develops."

BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY

FUN FOUNDATIONS DAY NURSERY
will be holding a
Crafty Tea Party
in their nursery
to raise money for
Marie Curie Cancer Care.

There will be craft stalls with unique gifts galore along with super fun activities for the children to delight in.

The vintage tea room will be providing tea and cakes for the adults and children to enjoy.

Marie Curie nurses do such a wonderful job and make such a huge difference to the lives of terminally ill patients and their families they deserve and need our support and this is a way in which you can help.

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WHAT ABOUT A CINEMA?

WITH reference to the £230m redevelopment of Barry docklands – as a resident of Barry, I have noticed that yet again, the council have missed out a vital facility – 'a cinema'.

Since the closure of our local cinema, we have been left with nothing and going to the cinemas in Cardiff, especially for a family on a low income, is very expensive and at times unaffordable for some.

So I say to the council – include a cinema in your plans and listen to what the people of Barry are telling you they need.

Miss Karen Meredith,
Barry

BLIND LEADING THE BLIND?

I AM writing to congratulate the Vale of Glamorgan Council for getting the award for the bus lane in Dinas Powys – they may also get one in the future for the access road and cycle way (leading to a greener Vale) on the Port Road, Barry entrance to the proposed crematorium.

Surely it would have made sense to create a slip road into the crematorium site and designated carriage ways left to Culverhouse and right to the docks link road, giving traffic an easier flow towards Cardiff and the M4? A narrower but longer cycle path would encourage more people to use this intimidating stretch of road (the one in place now could be dangerous as cyclists rejoin the road).

As usual, the blind must be leading the blind as the authorities have managed to spend public money on white elephants, only to get a pat on the back from people who one must assume have never visited the site.

Any right-minded person can see more congestion and even more spending is going to follow. It would be interesting to know the thinking behind these schemes.

Paul Robertson

Llantwit is looking good!

I WOULD like to commend all the people who have been involved with making Llantwit Major look so nice.

Those who worked on fighting to get the regeneration project started and monitoring the work, which has probably taken much time and patience, deserve a pat on the back.

Thank you all, as the town is now looking great.

A special thanks also to those of you involved with Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower, as Llantwit is now looking really pretty.

I would also like to say what a lovely place this is to live in.

I have heard people running down the town of late and I think it's a shame, as it is not being portrayed in its true light. It is a very friendly place, but if a person lives next door to a pub anywhere in the whole of the UK, it is unlikely to be quiet, or without the occasional problem.

I personally think it's great to see everyone enjoying themselves in the old town centre, and the pubs there were built before most of the residents bought their properties.

The town is quiet in comparison to how it used to be years ago.

I am sure the publicans do their very best to keep the public happy, which is probably not easy.

Eileen Bennett,
Llantwit Major

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'There are better sites for Sainsbury's store'

I FEEL compelled to respond to Mr Hartwell's letter (The GEM July 14) in which he states he finds it 'unbelievable' that Sainsbury's proposal to open a store in Park Crescent, Barry was turned down by the planning committee.

Let us start with his issue about the signing of petitions. People were invited to sign, there was no coercion, arms were not twisted, and threats were not made and if individuals do not have the courage of their conviction to actually stand up and refuse to sign a petition for fear of upsetting local business people, that is their problem.

Secondly, insinuating that the councillors on the planning committee were only out to protect votes was an insult.

Sainsbury's brought revised plans to the table to be considered and after arguments from both sides, a helpful site visit for those who were not familiar with the area and much deliberation, the plans were turned down.

I think those councillors involved should be praised not derided for listening to local residents and standing up for their beliefs against a powerful and wealthy supermarket chain.

The interesting thing here is that the five councillors who voted in favour of the proposal are not residents of Barry, but live in the rural Vale, which in itself speaks volumes doesn't it?

But the main point of this issue and the one that has been worrying most people that Mr Hartwell doesn't even think deserves a mention, is safety.

Whatever you may think, Romilly Primary School which is situated directly opposite the proposed site, plays a very active part in this area of the town.

Park Crescent, as residents know, is always teeming with traffic and although Sainsbury's plan to knock down Torque Tools and create a car park looks good on paper, in practical terms it is not so cut and dried.

Children of all ages, some of which are unaccompanied would be walking to and from school across the mouth of the proposed car park. Plus, there was a plan for a small dedicated right hand turn for traffic approaching the store from the Jenner and Pontypridd Road direction that would cause yet more congestion at the newly installed Puffin crossing lights, which are already mistrusted by many parents.

I don't think anyone is totally against the idea of Sainsbury's coming to Barry, but not opposite a large and busy school.

There are plenty of alternative sites where Sainsbury's could be an asset to the community and less of a risk to children; for instance, the old ski shop on Cardiff Road, or even as part of the proposed new development on the Waterfront.

Greater choice and competition within the town is necessary and healthy, but at the Park Crescent site, which is it to be – selecting items from a well-stocked supermarket shelf, or the protection of a vulnerable child's life?

The choice is yours.

Joy Strangward,
Penarth

(SEE MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 11)

Please put the building back!

THANK YOU for the coverage you gave my letter concerning the demolition of a very large part of the RAF St Athan camp site.

The work is continuing even at weekends, so they must be in a hurry to get it all done and dusted before public concern brings it to a halt.

If my memory serves me right when the announcement was made that the Academy was not going to go ahead, it was made clear that this was a final decision and non reversible.

One of the reasons for making this statement was that they wanted it to be made clear before any of the intended demolition work takes place.

At the present time, they are in the process of demolishing a large two-storey building that I think used to be the sports complex.

Maybe the MoD did not receive, or if they did, failed to read the statement – because the camp is now looking like a vast open space ready for redevelopment.

Perhaps they should be told the Academy is not going to go ahead and would they please put all the buildings back!

I wonder if the vast unused new hangars could be offered to the London Olympics as a wet weather alternative for track and field?

They are certainly big enough and already paid for by the cash-strapped public.

WE Henderson
Eglwys Brewis
(*See latest news of developments at St Athan elsewhere in this issue).*

Puzzled over a quotation

WHILE I agree with the points raised by Gwenno Huws, former deputy head of Ysgol St Baruc, in her condemnation of the appalling decision by the Vale Council not to name the new Welsh Medium School "Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynfor' (The GEM, July 7), I am puzzled by her penultimate paragraph.

I quote: "*It is said that society can be judged by the way it treats its children..*"

By whom was this said? What is the source, or who is the source of this quotation?

I do recall Tony Smythe, then general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties (now Liberty) making a speech in 1971 in London in which he said "*Society can be judged by the way it treats its unpopular minorities*" but there was no reference to children.

Perhaps, through your letters column, I may be allowed to pose this question to Ms Huws, and I look forward to her response.

Christopher Short
(*Former executive member of the National Council for Civil Liberties (Liberty)*)

Lady of the road

ON Wednesday, July 13 at 11am, the 1.45pm bus from Bridgend to Llantwit Major gave up the ghost at Broughton.

Two 'elderly' gentlemen, one Canadian and one Scot, decided to walk to their destinations and try the old thumb method.

Sadly, the thumb had been out of service for years, but thankfully '*the Lady from Broughton*' arrived and took the two gentlemen to St Donats and Llantwit respectively.

Lady from Broughton, many thanks for going out of your way to assist the two above. Your gracious act was greatly appreciated.

Thomas Candlish, Llantwit Major

Calling choir members

WERE you a member of the church choir of St Paul's Barry, in the 1980s?

If you were, your young organist and choirmaster of those days would love to meet you again when he visits St Paul's Church for the morning service, next Sunday, July 24.

In 1980, the teenage Brian Taylor was a brilliant young organist who came to St. Paul's to become organist and choir master and built the choir to a total of some 20 members.

Brian is now a priest in the Rhondda Valley but is returning to St. Paul's for just this one Sunday morning – his first visit since his days as choir master.

Brian will be delighted to see many of his old friends and choir members from those days at St. Paul's Church on Sunday morning at 10am.

Terry Sylvester, Barry

GEM SPEEDS THINGS UP!

FOLLOWING your recent article about broadband speeds in the Vale, I contacted BT yet again to complain about my download speed, which had dropped from 1.8MB to a miserable 1.4 MB in the last year.

I mentioned the interest being taken by The GEM and our MP, Alun Cairns.

In the past, these sweet-talking overseas call centre advisors have offered me the earth, but provided nothing, apart from socket accelerators which did not fit.

This time, within 48 hours, a most pleasant BT broadband booster engineer came to the house and spent a few hours changing sockets and making two trips to the local Southerndown exchange, where he also swapped lines in some way.

Lo and behold, I now have a speed of 4.4 MB which according to uswitch.com is the fastest in the area.

Thank you for prompting me to persist in getting improvement.

Dr Robert Balfour
Ogmore-by-Sea

Vale Council and defence of White Farm decision

THE Vale Council's planning committee deferred its reasons to reject the White Farm development because the arguments will be crucial in defending any appeal from the developer.

It is essential that the formal reasons are robust, but I suspect it is going to be difficult for council officials to put them forward since they recommended acceptance of the proposals.

After listening to the committee debate, there seems to be two fundamental themes raised.

Firstly, the proposals conflict with the development plan and the factors to justify this departure from policy were not identified.

The proposed area for housing development was 11,000 sq metres more than the plan; the area for open space was 5,000 sq metres less, and the density of dwellings exceeded the development plan.

The council official's reasoning seemed to amount to the scheme being 'acceptable in principle' together with the frequent use of words in the report suggesting that the plan was indicative and approximate.

The second basic theme is public concern.

This will be more difficult to successfully argue because the whole planning process seems weighted against objectors.

However, Welsh Government planning policy does say that the perceived fears of the public should be taken into account in determining whether a development would affect the area and that those fears could be a good reason to refuse planning permission.

The concerns of the public raised included over development, increased traffic, drainage and the proposed substantial earthworks to the open space.

The council now needs the strongest case and representation to successfully defend the planning committee's decision.

Dennis Harkus
(FocusBARRY supporter)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JULY 28)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
21 Thur	11.52	8.6		
22 Fri	00.07	8.7	12.27	8.3
23 Sat	00.48	8.2	13.06	7.9
24 Sun	01.33	7.9	14.01	7.6
25 Mon	02.33	7.5	15.11	7.4
26 Tues	03.53	7.3	16.36	7.6
27 Wed	05.14	7.7	17.47	8.1
28 Thur	06.16	8.5	18.38	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Expansion of special forces promised for St Athan as defence college is killed off

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed news of an expansion of military operations at St Athan – although details are shrouded in secrecy.

The news came out as part of a review of defence spending conducted by Defence Secretary Liam Fox MP, and Mr Cairns was understandably keen to look on the bright side, because Mr Fox's announcement effectively killed off any chance of the Defence Technical College ever arriving – even in a reduced form.

Mr Fox indicated that RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire was now the preferred location for technical training.

Exact details of what is planned for St Athan are vague, because of security issues, but it is understood that around 1,000 posts are involved.

Again, figures on how many would 'transfer in' and how many would be created at St Athan are not available.

It is thought that an existing Special Forces Support Group at the base will be expanded, and perhaps similar units may be posted to St Athan.

Mr Cairns described the expansion as an exciting development that "changes the direction of the base".

He said that in a private meeting, Liam Fox explained the details around the proposals that relate to the Special Forces Support Group based at the site.

The Defence Secretary told Mr Cairns that the nature of the activities meant that only limited information could be shared publicly, although the outcome was very positive for the community.

Alun Cairns said, "There will be a significant expansion on the site and it will become a centre of excellence for Special Forces Support."

Mr Cairns continued: "It is unfortunate that the nature of Special Forces means that only limited information is made public.

"As a result, I am delighted that the Secretary of State has agreed to come to speak to community leaders to explain in more detail the expansion of operations at the site."

Mr Cairns added, "St Athan will be seen in the same light as Hereford is to the SAS.

It is reported that the Special Forces Support Group is a Special Operations unit of the British Armed Forces and is the newest addition to the UK's Special Forces.

It works with the SAS and the SBS and could provide diversionary tactics or protective cordons on operations.

Mr Cairns continued: "It is clear that the original plans for a single training college were simply unaffordable and the reduction in the armed forces could always question its long term viability.

"There is an important, positive budgetary implication for St Athan, in that even within this financial climate the budget for Special Forces has been protected and even enhanced in some areas.

"This is great news and I am aware of significant investment that has already taken place on the site.

"Naturally, if anyone locally has any questions about this, I hope they will get in touch.

The Vale Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, told The GEM that he was encouraged that St Athan was expanding at a time when the MoD was making cutbacks.

He said: "I look forward to meeting Liam Fox when he comes to the Vale to talk to local community leaders and give more details."

Cowbridge 'history man' writes book on Mallorcan tourism

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COWBRIDGE resident, Professor Dick Buswell, perhaps best known locally for his involvement in the local history society, has published a book on the tourist island of Mallorca.

However, The GEM has to warn that the book, entitled *Mallorca and Tourism – History, Economy and Environment*, is not casual reading for the beach or the airport.

It is a detailed look at the economic effects of tourism on the island, covering all aspects of how the island has changed because of the influx of holidaymakers, particularly from the UK and from Germany, and looks as if it could become a text book for university courses around the UK (and further afield).

Prof Buswell, who before he retired and settled in Cowbridge 20 years ago, was Head of the School of Behavioural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, has used his retirement to research this book.

He divides his time between the Vale and Mallorca, and told The GEM: "The university in Mallorca was very helpful in conducting the research.

"I think Mallorca is the prime example of an island that had to adapt to mass tourism."

Even in the current difficult financial times, nine million visitors come to Mallorca every year, with the UK and Germany the two biggest,

Early chapters look at how tourism developed (slowly at first) but then, of course, it was the availability of cheap air travel in the 1960s that transformed the situation.

The type of tourist heading for the island has changed over the years. Prof Buswell said: "For many years, the tourism slogan was '*sun, sand and sangria*'.

"Now, in some parts of the island, it is '*sex, Smirnoff and sleeping it off*!'

The book is published by Channel View Publications, www.channelviewpublications.com

ABOVE: Professor Dick Buswell with his textbook on tourism in Mallorca.

Cowbridge (*the horse*) disappoints

Five year old bay gelding, *Cowbridge*, owned by trustmark directors, Victoria Pryor and Colin White and trained by Peter Pritchard in Whatcote, Warwickshire disappointed in his second run in a bumper at Stratford-upon-Avon Racecourse on the Sunday, July 17, Ladies Day meeting.

Cowbridge finished fifth out of 14 to *Bevnott* trained by Lucy Wadham of Newmarket.

He looked out of sorts in the rain and never really got into his stride. On his return to the racecourse stables, a chiropractor was on hand, who gave his analysis and treatment followed the next day.

Cowbridge breakfasted well and after treatment deep depression turned to optimism for his next run.

A good day was had by all his supporters and we will keep you all posted via The GEM.

CW

Bow-making is a tricky challenge

ST NICHOLAS WI NEWS

ON July 7, members and guests met at the hall in St Nicholas.

After the business meeting, chaired by president Ann Bryant, Marilyn Shepherd from Pendoyan WI gave a comprehensive report on her attendance at the Federation conference in Liverpool.

There was a brief discussion about issues which arose from the report.

This was followed by a floral arranging demonstration by Tina Evans. It was amazing to see three very different and beautiful arrangement growing in front of our eyes.

Tina then showed how bows can be made from ribbon. Everyone present had an opportunity to make a bow from the ribbon provided.

Tina decided the best bow was made by Betty Huks, with June Pugsley the runner-up.

Bow-making provided to be quite a challenge for many but great fun for all.

Refreshments were served and the raffle drawn. The winner of the basket of flowers arrangement was Janet Griffiths.

One of the other arrangements was given to Gwyneth, to whom members sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Members are invited to visit the garden of Jen and Viv Hayes on our evening in August.

The next WI meeting in the hall will be on September 1. Visitors are always welcome.

EE

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

School celebration

WHAT a fantastic week for the children and staff of Llangan school when the centenary celebrations took place on July 13-15.

Former pupils who had attended the school, and many now in their 80th year, joined invited guests.

Headteacher, Mary Noyes, welcomed Mr John Homfray (who has generously given a field to the school for a much-needed car park); County councillor Ray Thomas; Mrs Mari Major, secretary of the Llangan community council; Mr Hugh Davey, chair of the school PTA, and Jane Hutt AM, who had been invited to perform the unveiling of the centenary garden and fountain.

Former pupils and invited guests were entertained by five young harpists and the more senior children, before proceeding to the original school hall where so many photos of years ago were on display.

The registers were then eagerly scanned to find the records of their own and family members.

Wonderland

THE celebrations continued on July 15 when the school playground became a wonderland, with coloured bunting and flags on every vantage point.

Tables were being laid with party goodies but once again, due to the unpredictable weather, the rain came and there was a mass exodus from the playground into the school hall where the children continued the celebrations.

A GEM photographer was on hand to record the historic event *(see page 23)* and Vale MP Alun Cairns also arrived to enjoy the celebrations.

The school will close today (Thursday) for the summer holidays. I would like to convey my thanks to headteacher, Mary Noyes and all the teachers and staff, for their help with school news during the past months – and the many cups of coffee!

Garden party

THE garden party held at the home of Llangan residents Mr and Mrs Harding on July 9, raised £625, which will go towards the National Eisteddfod appeal.

MEET THE GREYHOUNDS

MAY I bring to GEM readers' attention that there is an opportunity to Meet the Greyhounds with Greyhound Welfare – informally on the streets outside Cowbridge Town Hall and its immediate area between 11am-2pm on Saturday, July 23.

We are holding a street collection to raise funds for former racing greyhounds prior to rehoming, as well as meeting greyhounds and their owners, as people visit town for Saturday shopping.

Details of all money raised will, as always, be provided to The GEM.

For further information, please telephone 01446 750663.

JOHN RICHFIELD, St Athan (Volunteer helper)

LATEST BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club – Monday, July 11 (18 pairs):

1st, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox 66.96 per cent; 2nd, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox, 59.52; 3rd, Muriel Maslin and Joan Bird, 57.44; 4th, Mari Jones and Teri Pollard 57.14; 5th, Pat and Brian Swain, 55.95; 6th, Vida Halford and Glyn Willams, 54.76.

Many thanks to Glyn for his assistance with the operation of our new "Bridgemate' for the past two weeks; please note that the summer simultaneous event will take place on July 25.

COWBRIDGE & District Bridge Club – Tuesday, July 12 (13 pairs):

1st, Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker, 63.50; 2nd, Sylvia Phillips and Margaret Bancroft, 60.50; 3rd, Williams and Gordon Berrey, 56.11; 4th Barbara and Colin Easterbrook, 55.56; 5th, Pam Higgs and Myrtle Hansard, 53.89; 6th, Judy Springett and Ann Miller, 50.50%.

BS

Huge response to display

I WAS delighted with the response last Saturday to the exhibition in Old Hall, featuring 50 years of Cowbridge from the 1940s.

From its opening at 12 noon to 5pm, there was a constant flow of visitors, the rooms buzzing with comments and questions, memories and chance meetings with past friends.

It was great to see such interest and enthusiasm. Some exhibits have had to be stored safely away (though these can always be seen on Wednesday mornings in the local history room, except in August.

However, if you call into Old Hall's room 6, when no class is being held, you should see the photographs up on the walls there for some time to come.

My grateful thanks go to the very co-operative staff at Old Hall, to all those who visited and to those who helped get this exhibition off the ground.

Betty Alden, Cowbridge

Church raises £1,745

MEMBERS and friends of Bethania Presbyterian Church, Pendoylan, recently held a fundraising event to support the Home of Love Orphanage in Mizoram, India.

The Hearts of Worship sisters, Elizabeth Peters and Sharon David sang the Gospel message to a packed church.

The sum of £1,745 raised will be used towards the purchase of storage tanks to collect enough rainwater for all year round consumption, equipping the orphanage with central heating and the purchase of an industrial washing machine and drier etc.

The Rev Dr Sangkhuma from Mizoram, who was present with members of his family, expressed sincere appreciation to all that supported the appeal.

He also acknowledged his heartfelt thanks to Welsh missionaries who went over to Mizoram in the 19th century, taking with them the Gospel message.

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Church community project gets enthusiastic response!

Canon Derek Belcher with Mrs Jo Homfray.

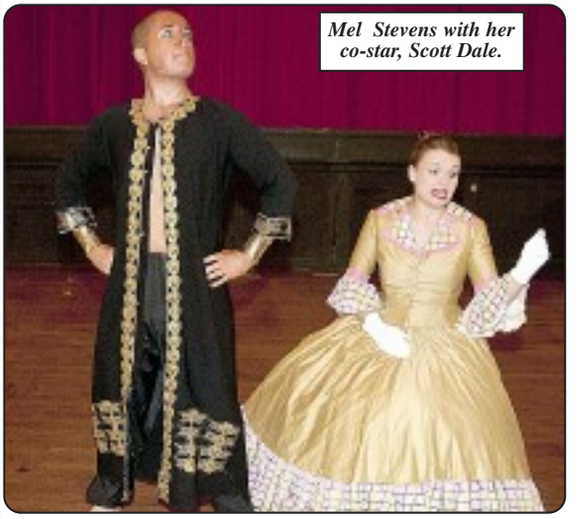
Photographs by **MIKE WILCOCK**

THERE was a fine turn-out last Friday (July 15) when the new plans for Holy Cross Church were officially unveiled.

Fundraising has started in earnest, but there has been considerable enthusiasm for the plan to create a "large, flexible open space in the church, suitable for all forms of worship, celebration, and use by the community".

Vale MP Alun Cairns was there, as was the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Andy Banks (pictured right).

Cowbridge's Mel stars in youth theatre show



Mel Stevens with her co-star, Scott Dale.

Mel Stevens of Cowbridge Comprehensive School will be playing the role of Anna in The King and I next week, when the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) perform the much-loved Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

Earlier this year, Mel was one of two girls cast as Nancy in Cowbridge Comprehensive School's production of Oliver!

The BYT has acquired an enviable reputation for the quality of its productions over the past 10 years, as it draws its cast from all the schools in Bridgend county borough, and is also open to 'foreigners' from Cowbridge or Port Talbot.

Last year, Mel was also cast in a lead role, as Mrs Lovett in Sweeney Todd. It means that in the space of one year, she has played a serial killer, a tart with a heart, and a prim schoolteacher – all set to music! The King and I is on at the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion for three nights, July 27–29.

Summer Activities

at the Vale of Glamorgan's Leisure Centres during the 2011 summer school holidays

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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres

VALE of GLAMORGAN
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COUPLE AT ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

Poppy Appeal veterans Graham and Barbara off to Buckingham Palace!

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

POPULAR Poppy Appeal veterans Graham Davies and his wife Barbara were invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party this week.

The invitation by the Queen was in recognition of the Barry couple's sterling efforts in raising thousands of pounds for the Royal British Legion.

Every year Graham (77) and Barbara (68) are a familiar site at the Waitrose store in the town.

Graham said: "We don't know who recommended us for the garden party, but we want to thank them.

"We were thrilled. We were contacted by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Colin Jones, who asked if we were available on July 19."

Each year, Graham and Barbara do a two week run up to Remembrance Sunday.

ABOVE:
Graham and Barbara Davies were garden party guests at Buckingham Palace this week in recognition of their support for the Poppy Appeal.

Graham said: "We have done the Poppy Appeal for seven years at Waitrose, and the preceding year when the site was Safeways.

"Waitrose staff always make us feel so welcome."

Barbara said: "When I heard of the invitation, the first thought I had was, I need a new hat and dress."

Graham and Barbara travelled on Monday, attended the garden party on Tuesday, followed by an overnight stay in a London hotel, and travelled back yesterday.

Graham's association with the Royal British Legion is due to the fact that he did national service with the Royal Artillery in Germany from 1954–56.

In recent years, he has noticed that due to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, younger people are showing strong support for the Poppy Appeal because they understand its significance.

Each year, Graham and Barbara set themselves a £5,000 minimum target which they always achieve, sometimes beating the figure by hundreds of pounds. It means that over the years they have topped £40,000 in donations.

This year, as ever, they will 'report for duty' in November – and will be seen behind their patriotic stand in the lead-up to Remembrance Day on November 13.

Fond farewells for pupils leaving St Illtyd school

JULY 14 was an emotional day at St Illtyd Primary School as the year-6s said their farewells to staff and pupils at their leavers' service.

With their parents in the audience, the children of year-6 performed '*I'm a pupil of St Illtyd, Get me out of here*!'

While Holly Haystead and Shannen King (right) gave sterling performances as Ant and Dec, the other children showcased their musical and sporting talents.

Ioan Jenkins gave a superb performance on the cello, and Abigail Allen sang perfectly to 'You'll be in my Heart.'

Performances from Seren Hawksworth, Gemma Tooze, Nathaniel Lamb and Kris Reed-Spargo also impressed the audience.

St Illtyd has had a particularly good crop of sporting talent this year, some of whom demonstrated their skills.

Gymnasts Sam Snaith, Jack Richards, Lewys Godwin, Maggie Stoyanova, Ellie Jose, Danielle Webb, Rhian Fleig and Eleri Sheehan wowed the crowd with back flips and rolls.

Jordan James, Morgan Jones, Evan O'Brien, Dan Clarke and Mark Ringstead showed their football skills while Morgan Gore scored the winning penalty against Charlie Rutherford in goal, and Owen Gostling showed his twinkle toes by sidestepping around Neil Jones with rugby ball in hand while Dan Williams, Josh Bartholomey, Ben Boyd and Ryan Malton showed their rugby tricks.

Entertainment between these demonstrations of skill came from the 'Bruno Mars Babes' Ellie Clarke, Melanie Massingham, Ellie Jose, Eleri Sheehan, Maggie Stoyanova, Georgia Dawkins and Maddie, who performed their own choreographed routine to one of his tracks; and a fantastic Freddie Mercury tribute by Robert Vivian, who had the audience in tears of laughter, such was the comedy value and enthusiasm of his performance.

Phillip Schofield, *aka* Moses Gee, made an episode of 'The Cube' live in school which involved handling snakes, spiders and picking noses – eww!

All this, however, was overshadowed by the performance year-6 gave together at the end of their assembly. While there were tears, from parents and children alike, they managed to cut through the emotion of the afternoon and give a perfect rendition of 'The Leavers' Song'.

In line with a school tradition, the PTA gave every child their own Thesaurus to take with them on their journey through the comprehensive.

Congratulations to all our year-6s for your efforts and achievements throughout your time in St Illtyd.

MP

Dogs Trust's SOS for grass cutting help!

THE Bridgend Dogs Trust in Pen-y-Fai has put out an SOS because their animal welfare helpers are overwhelmed by grass-cutting duties.

Rhia Stankovitch of the rehoming centre told The GEM: "We are desperately seeking volunteers who would be prepared to give up some of their time to help us with our mammoth task of keeping our grass, hedge and verges under control.

"The grass seems to grow at such a pace that we do not have enough hands to help. We are a busy rehoming centre and the dogs that are with us run and are exercised in the big field, so we need the grass kept at a reasonable level!"

Anyone who can help should telephone 01656 725219, or call in to the centre.

Mr Cowell, our Eagleswell children DO have talent!

ABOVE: Eagleswell's talented pupils.

EAGLESWELL Primary School pupils showed last week that they really do have talent! Look out, Simon Cowell, these are the stars of the future!

Following auditions and several rehearsals, the pupils' hard work and efforts culminated in two sell-out shows.

The audience were wowed with a variety of acts, including gymnastics, singing, musical performances, dancing, football skills and more.

The show was hosted by year-6 pupils Rachel and Adam, and Cerys and Shannon. Former pupils Rachael Jeffreys and Olivia Holt also performed and the show was rounded off with a hilarious staff rendition of YMCA.

Well done to everyone who was involved. Pupils put in so much hard work and effort and the high quality of performances was reflected in the audience votes. The winners were announced in a special Eagleswell's Got Talent assembly this week.

This is the first of our 'live shows' but it definitely won't be the last – popular with staff and pupils, this is sure to be a fixture in the Eagleswell Primary School calendar for many years to come!

Our next big event to mark the school's 40th anniversary in September will be sure to rival even the Notting Hill Carnival!

If you are a former Eagleswell pupil, or have links with the school, keep an eye on our website for details. www.eagleswellprimary.ik.org

JD

Local man damaged door after trying to enter wrong house

by AJ SICLUNA

A LOCAL man who damaged a door after getting drunk, was given a conditional discharge for six months at Cardiff Crown Court and ordered to pay £41 compensation.

Mark Walker (20) unemployed of Michaelston Close, Barry, pleaded guilty before Vale magistrates to causing damage and was committed to the crown court for sentence.

He was also in breach of a 12 months suspended sentence for the offence of burglary.

Recorder Hugh Rees ordered the sentence continue and said that Walker must also carry out 120 hours unpaid work.

Prosecutor John Probert said that on June 15, a couple were at home in Gatehouse Road, Barry, when Walker began kicking at a door.

Walker was arrested and said he had no idea why he had gone to the house.

The burglaries, said Mr Probert, occurred in Crossways Street and Dunlin Court, Barry.

His solicitor, Adam Sharp, said: "When he caused the damage he had been drinking heavily and was in a confused state.

"He went to the wrong house, believing it was the home of his uncle. It was a reckless act, after which he immediately burst into tears."

Mr Sharp said he was an immature person and had attended special schools.

"Sadly, his mother died last year and he took solace in alcohol. He acknowledges there is a drink problem."

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STREET SURGERY

DUE to circumstances beyond their control, the Llantwit First Independent councillors were unable to hold a street surgery at Percy Smith Road, Gaskell Close, Harding Close and Glan y Mor, Boverton, on Saturday, July 16.

The surgery has been reconvened and will now be held from 6pm-8pm on Friday, July 29.

"All residents are invited to raise any issues they may have with their councillors, who will be pleased to visit and discuss any of their concerns," said Coun Gwyn John.

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HOSPITAL PATIENT WENT 'BERSERK' – COURT TOLD

Nurses intimidated by 'psychotic' behaviour which lasted an hour

by AJ SICLUNA

A HOSPITAL patient who suffered a psychotic episode has been given a community order for 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Adam Evans (30) of Glan Ffornwg, Bridgend, had gone berserk in the Princess of Wales Hospital, terrifying patients and staff, said prosecutor David Pugh.

Evans, who was at the hospital as an in-patient for treatment to a facial injury, admitted a charge of affray.

The community order involves a supervision order for 18 months, a mental health treatment requirement for a year, and a substance abuse programme.

Judge Neil Bidder said that at the time a combination of cannabis and alcohol had affected Evans' mental health.

He said that if Evans' condition was not dealt with, he would pose a potential danger.

Mr Pugh said that on November 17 last year, Evans was a patient in the hospital and appeared to be behaving in a paranoid fashion.

He said he had "X-Ray hearing" and could hear the staff talking about him.

He became animated and nurses became intimidated.

He shouted: "You make sure you tell the rest of the staff what I said. I want you to line them up."

Nurses began to keep their distance from Evans, who insisted he was not a bad person.

Security staff tried to reason with him when he picked up a fire extinguisher and said: "I am going to kill someone with this. I am going to hit someone over the head with it."

At that point he picked up a zimmer frame and broke it.

Police arrived and he told them: "You are all out to get me" and he threatened officers with a heart rate monitor machine before being subdued.

The incident, said Mr Pugh, lasted an hour.

The judge said that what occurred was a psychotic episode.

The court heard that Evans had convictions for causing actual bodily harm, possessing a bladed article, and assault and offences connected with drugs.

Waiting lists for heroin treatment cut

TREATMENT waiting lists for heroin users have been eradicated in the Vale thanks to a joint initiative from the Safer Vale Partnership and local substance misuse agencies.

The Opiate Prescribing Pilot Project was launched in May 2010 to tackle waiting times of up to 26 weeks.

"By offering rapid access to treatment and support, Safer Vale hopes to reduce the impact of substance misuse on the wider community," a spokesperson explained.

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NIGEL HEADS OFF TO POLICE AFGHAN CAPITAL

LEFT: Chief Inspector Nigel Lewis, ready and waiting to leave in his official uniform.

IN 28 years at South Wales Police, Chief Inspector Nigel Lewis has done most things – but this time he's landed himself a very different challenge.

On July 8, he left Wales for Afghanistan to join a European policing mission to oversee improvements to policing in Kabul.

Nigel, who lives in Ogmore Vale, but has served as a Chief Inspector in Rhondda Cynon Taff for the last four years, will be based at a secure compound in the Afghan capital for the next 12 months.

After a national recruitment drive, Nigel was selected by the UK Stabilisation Unit (part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development).

He'll take up position as head of the 'City Police and Justice Programme', and will be expected to introduce a neighbourhood policing style to the Afghan National Police Service.

Nigel, whose own father was a policeman whose work also took him around the world to the Caribbean and West Africa, said: "I have many years as an officer under my belt, and I intend to take it all to Afghanistan so that it can benefit others at this time of need.

"Some people think I am mad for even contemplating the role, but I am a 'glass half full' sort of person and while I accept the scale of the challenge, I'm really excited to be able to add my weight to what are very important, historical efforts which will ultimately help to ensure peace back home in the UK.

"I suppose I am doing this for the same reasons I joined the service back in 1983. I wanted to serve the community and stop the bad guys back then, and that's pretty much what I'll be doing in Afghanistan.

"If I can translate some of the success we've had with neighbourhood policing in south Wales into another setting, then I will consider my job well done."

For 12 months Nigel will be based at a secure compound and his every movement will be under constant protection. Only last week, news flashes of suicide bombings in the capital were beamed across the world.

He leaves his wife and two sons back in Wales. On missing his home comforts, and on the relative danger which confronts him, he explained: "My wife Lisa is very supportive, and I am immensely proud of my sons who are young men now and leading their own lives.

"Of course I will miss them, but in this day and age it isn't so difficult to keep in touch and I'm sure the time will go very quickly.

"This really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me. I take great comfort in thinking that somehow my efforts to disrupt the bad guys and keep Afghan people safe, will ultimately help keep my home soil and everyone I know and cherish safe too."

Nigel will be part of the UK Government's Stabilisation Unit which draws together expertise in diplomacy, defence and development to help countries at risk of, or already affected by, conflict.

The role is funded in its entirety by the UK Government conflict pool.

Eisteddfod boot sale

A CAR boot sale held at the beginning of this month at Barry Comprehensive School was so successful that the organisers are planning another for Saturday, July 30.

The event is organised by the Barry National Eisteddfod Fund Raising Committee in advance of the visit by this massive event to the Vale of Glamorgan in August 2012.

A member of the committee, Tim Pearce, said: "We were very heartened by the response from vendors taking part in the car boot sale on July 2."

The car boot sale takes place at Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road West, Barry, from 10am-2pm on Saturday, July 30. Vendors should arrive at 9am in order to set up – first come, first served. The fee for vendors is £5 for cars and £8 for vans.

'Andrew gave so much to youth of Llantwit'

IT was with sadness that I learnt of the passing of Andrew Ireland, and the tribute paid by Peter Morris in The GEM last week brought back many memories of my links with Andrew.

For many years at Llantwit Major School, both Andrew and I spent our evenings coaching young people – Andrew introduced athletics to hundreds of youngsters in the town with his after-school coaching sessions, which stretched long into the evening, while I was busy coaching football to a group of children.

I had a great admiration for Andrew, who stayed on after his working day at school to spend hours with the young people, and he developed many fine athletes at Llantwit Major and found support from many parents who shared his enthusiasm.

It was a sad day for all the youth at Llantwit Major and athletics in the Vale, when Andrew moved on to train for the Ministry to become a Baptist Minister, and he was sorely missed in the athletics world.

Andrew was an inspiration to all who knew him and his devotion to athletics rubbed off on all those he coached. While I have not spoken to Andrew for a long time, his memory will always be in my thoughts, as the man who gave so much to the young athletes of Llantwit Major.

Gwyn John, Llantwit Major

Police point to improved figures on local crime

THE latest Home Office crime figures show the streets of Bridgend and the Vale are staying safe, with a 6.4 per cent drop in crime across the region.

Crime figures for the 12-month period up to March 31, 2011 released by the Home Office last week, reveal there were 1,035 fewer victims of crime in Central Division compared to the previous year.

A police spokesman said: "There have been notable reductions in key areas such as violent crime, car crime and burglary.

"The biggest drop was in the number of thefts of motor vehicles which fell by 21.9 per cent or 96 fewer thefts.

"The number of robberies has significantly dropped by 15.2 per cent, resulting in seven less incidents, while criminal damage has also reduced by 14.5 per cent with 560 fewer offences."

Superintendent Paul James of South Wales Police Central Division said: "Crime continues to fall across Bridgend and the Vale but this could not be achieved without the continued support of our communities.

"They play a major part in helping us to drive down crime by providing vital information to the police and standing up to be counted to bring offenders to justice."

He added that the Vale and Bridgend County Borough Councils are essential partners and contributors to the continued good news in Central Division.

Supt James added: "The combined challenge for us is to maintain this performance but also to reassure the residents of Bridgend and the Vale that they are living in safe communities."

He continued: "Police officers and staff predominantly live and work in their own communities and we are working with the local service boards to develop even closer levels of cooperation and teamwork to maintain these improvements."

How the Assembly is planning to put its '*powers for a purpose*' into effect

OVER the past 12 years, those of us who have been fortunate to have been elected to serve in the National Assembly for Wales have been determined to make our role and presence worthwhile and meaningful for the people of Wales.

We have sought to develop policies and allocate our resources to best effect, to support the social and economic renewal of Wales.

We have worked in partnership with local government, business, and above all – with the people and communities who need strong and effective government.

This has led us to invest in our most disadvantaged communities, to promote universal benefits such as free bus passes and free prescriptions, to invest in 'flying start' for children in our most needy families and to tackle inequalities in health, education and the provision of public services.

We have doubled our budget since 1999 and we have protected these services, including social services, in the most challenging of times with the recent cuts to our budget by the UK Coalition Government.

To underpin the policies, programmes and budgets of the devolved Welsh Government, we have sought to promote our own legislative powers, without having to seek permission from Westminster to do so.

When we were making the case for a 'yes' vote in the referendum in March this year, we made the case by talking about 'powers for a purpose'.

We wanted to show that if we had the powers to pass our own Welsh laws, they would make a difference to the prospects of people, communities and businesses in Wales.

Well, we won the argument in the referendum campaign and we secured the powers we needed to pass our own laws – and last week the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, presented the first full Welsh Government's legislative programme.

He started his statement by saying: "It is with great pleasure that I announce the Welsh Government's legislative programme for the next five years, when this government will be doing its utmost to improve public services and create opportunities for everyone."

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM

(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

The headlines for new Welsh laws corresponded with our programme of government with the announcement of a sustainable development bill, setting Wales apart as a sustainable nation, leading from the front.

Introducing a duty to provide cycle routes will be widely welcomed, particularly by Sustrans, with a duty to be put on local authorities to provide and maintain cycle paths in key areas.

New heritage, environment and planning bills were also announced. The Environment Bill will legislate on the amount of land to be used for allotments, to ensure a minimum standard across Wales.

The demand for allotments is rising up the agenda in the Vale and it is welcome to see the new focus on these issues in the Creative Rural Communities Plan.

I am planning a meeting with local people and partners in the western Vale shortly to progress these allotment opportunities but legislation will help make this a priority.

With the richness of heritage of my constituency, a Bill to help us protect historic assets will be welcome.

In his statement, the First Minister referred to the opportunities by saying: "There is currently a wide range of controls to help protect historic assets but they have been in place for many years and would benefit from streamlining and modernisation."

There will be consultation about how we can best reflect the heritage needs of Wales prior to a Bill being introduced.

Better life chances for our young people will be welcomed across Wales with a Children's and Young Person's Bill and a Social Services Bill to protect vulnerable people.

With the pressing need to provide more affordable housing, a new housing Bill will be welcomed to help build on the three strategic priorities identified in our national housing strategy – improving the quality and supply of housing as well as services for homeless people.

The introduction of a Domestic Abuse Bill will place a duty on relevant public sector bodies to have a a domestic abuse and violence against women strategy in place, which will be welcomed by Atal y Fro, our Women's Aid group in the Vale.

As well as Bills to help protect and promote health, simplify and improve government and improve collaboration between local authorities, there will be legislation to put compacts with the voluntary sector on a legislative footing with the Statutory Third Sector Compacts Bill.

For county voluntary bodies across Wales like our VCVS in the Vale, this will provide a legislative base for their effective relationships and partnerships with local government and their partners.

The First Minister called on all political parties represented in the Assembly to play their part in working together with the Welsh Government to find consensus where possible, developing "distinctive Welsh policies for the betterment of the communities we each serve".

All speakers in the debate recognised the importance of this statement and there was a positive response to the call for a constructive engagement with the legislative process over the next five years.

These are 'powers for a purpose' and will be a test of the new phase of devolution supported by the majority of those who voted in the referendum in March leading up to the May elections which found us back in Government, to continue to serve you, to the best of our ability and endeavour.

'DESPICABLE' ACTIONS OF HANDYMAN WHO CONNED 86-YEAR-OLD BARRY WOMAN – *report by AJ SICLUNA*

A HANDYMAN who conned a highly vulnerable 86-year-old woman from Barry out of thousands of pounds, has been jailed for 16 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Jason Hicks (34) took part in "a confidence fraud" over a significant period of time, said Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones.

He told him: "Over a period of years, you were befriended by an elderly lady who, very obviously, was extremely vulnerable.

"She befriended you and treated you as a grandson. Over a period of years, she loaned you money.

"But despite that, you treated her despicably by stealing from her £8,290 by telling her blatant lies.

"It was repeated and repeated and I can't think of behaviour more despicable to an old lady who befriended you."

Hicks, of Aberystwyth Street, Cardiff, admitted five charges of obtaining money by deception.

Prosecutor Heath Edwards said: "This case involves the cynical exploitation of the trust of 86-year-old Marjorie Gumbley."

For 12 years, said Mr Edwards, she lived at Howard Court, Barry. Her health deteriorated and she became largely housebound.

Seven years ago, Hicks befriended her. But on many occasions, he obtained loans on a fraudulent basis.

Altogether, said Mr Edwards, Hicks obtained £8,290 dishonestly. To pay him, she even remortgaged the property and obtained bank overdrafts.

Hicks obtained a £4,700 loan to pay solicitors' fees for a divorce, but he never had a solicitor.

A £500 loan was for patio work which was never completed.

A £1,330 loan was for dental work which was never done, and a £970 loan was to repay debts to his ex-wife, which did not exist.

He also obtained £820 for court costs, which had been written off.

Matters came to light when Mrs Gumbley's daughter and bank manager became concerned about her financial affairs.

Two years ago, Hicks said he was going into the Welsh Guards, and contact ceased, but a year later, he returned to the scene. Mrs Gumbley's daughter went to the police, and Hicks' dishonesty was revealed.

Mike Hammett, Hicks' counsel, said: "Much of the money was legitimately obtained. He had been a handyman for a significant time, which in some ways aggravates this breach of trust."

He said that Hicks didn't victimise Mrs Gumbley, who had, previously been a victim of Lottery scams.

Mr Hammett said Hicks was of good character and wanted to repay the money.

IT was a day of fun at Beryl Road Welsh Nursery fete in Barry, when youngsters enjoyed a bouncy castle, fire truck rides, and lucky dips.

"Staff and committee members would like to thank all the parents and friends who turned out to support the day and make it so special.

"Special thanks go to the all the local businesses that have supported us this year and contributed to the raffle prizes," a spokeswoman said.

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COUNCIL AWARDS FOR ROYAL WEDDING THEME

Llantwit schools' garden competition winners

LLANTWIT Major Town Council held its annual school garden competition prizegiving ceremony on July 11.

This year's event was given the theme of William and Kate's wedding, and each of the local schools and playgroups in the town were asked to design and plant a suitable school garden.

Each garden was then judged by Town Mayor Coun Eddie Williams and two of the town's other councillors, Molly Lane and Anita James.

The gardens were divided into two categories, one for the early learning years and one for the primary school children.

The winners of each category received a winners' shield and plaque, together with a certificate signed by the mayor and a small cheque from the town council to put towards future gardens in the schools.

The second and third placed schools also received a plaque, certificate and cheque for their efforts.

Each school and playgroup sent a small group of children to the ceremony, which was hosted by the mayor in the council chamber.

The Mayor told the children that it had been very difficult to decide the winners because everyone had made such a good effort.

The winners of the early learning group were Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, closely followed by Eagleswell Primary School and the Gillybeans Playgroup.

In the primary school section Eagleswell Primary School narrowly won first place, with St Illtyd's Primary School coming second.

At the end of the ceremony, the children and staff from all the schools were thanked by the mayor for their efforts in producing such lovely gardens for all their school friends to enjoy.

The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Eddie Williams, was delighted to be able to present shields and certificates to members of the schools who took part.

ABOVE: 'We're winners!'

Music treats for local pensioners

IN June, members of Llantwit Major Pensioners Club and friends enjoyed a fish and chips supper, and later in the evening were entertained by Half Tidy, for a great night which left everyone asking for more.

Last week, members and visitors were treated to a wonderful performance by Porthcawl Male Voice Choir, who sang 'Happy Birthday' to Liz, the chair lady.

Philip, the soloist, was a joy to listen to.

New members and visitors are always welcome at Llantonian Hall on Tuesday evenings. LD

Follow us on Twitter - @gem-news

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Exciting plans taking shape at MoD St Athan

EARLIER this week, I received a call from the Secretary of State for Defence, Liam Fox. He wanted to discuss his proposals for St Athan.

The Minister shared details of some exciting plans for the site with a significant expansion in operations.

There is a difficulty, however, in that the nature of the operations means that many of the details cannot be made public.

This could cause concern in the local area; therefore, I thought it only right that community leaders such as chairmen of community councils and others be told a little more detail.

This would hopefully, reassure local residents that nothing untoward was happening and also highlight how the community would benefit from the plans.

As a result, I asked the Secretary of State if he would agree to meet the community leaders to explain the plans, naturally within parameters, to which he readily agreed. I will press for a date as soon as possible.

I am extremely pleased at the outcome for the site. The financial climate means that many RAF and Army bases are to be closed around the country.

The proposals for a single-site training college are simply unaffordable.

RAF Lyneham will receive some training but nowhere near the scale originally envisaged.

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

On a financial level, it is worth mentioning that budgets for the Special Forces have been protected and some enhanced.

This means that St Athan and the plans for expansion there will benefit from greater security in spending.

I recently visited the site and heard of the type of activities that they are already involved in. They really are cutting edge operations.

The SAS are based at Hereford and the town holds them in awe.

The recovery of hostages from the Libyan Embassy secured our admiration.

The Special Forces Support Group is also a Special Forces unit and we should also think of the SFSG in the same way.

I am sure that the SFSG will be involved in a high-profile operation one day that will also secure the nation's admiration and be held in the highest esteem.

MOVEMENT IN ST ATHAN WATER SAGA

Mr Curnow with Alun Cairns, MP.

VALE MP Alun Cairns met Mr Ron Curnow, a member of the East Vale Residents Company to celebrate their success in securing the transfer of the private sewer and lateral drains that serves homeowners in the area, to the control of Welsh Water.

Residents have been trying to tackle the control of this issue for several years, and the Vale MP has worked with Mr Curnow and residents for some time in their bid to transfer the responsibility of their water supply from a private company and the MoD to Welsh Water, which should reduce costs for all.

The East Vale Residents Company has now received confirmation that Welsh Water will become responsible for the sewerage and lateral drains for residents of the estate in St Athan from October 1.

Mr Cairns said: "I was delighted to hear from Ron Curnow that, at long last, the issue and significant costs of the sewerage removal for all the residents on East Vale estate will now be resolved.

"Welsh Water will now be able to ensure that each property can be billed individually for their waste water services."

He continued: "I know that the residents are also keen to be able to receive their water supply directly from Welsh Water, rather than through the base dependency service through the MoD.

"I shall be putting pressure on both the MoD and the Welsh Government to hold to their previous commitment of helping to fund the mains requisition – which has been estimated by Welsh Water at a cost of £226,000," Mr Cairns vowed.

Beach plans are revealed by club

PENYBONT Surf Life Saving Club has unveiled ambitious plans to develop community facilities at Ogmore-by-Sea.

The club feels that the plan could 'kill two birds with one stone' because it has long been an issue in the village that there is no community hall.

Nev White, the treasurer of the club, told The GEM that if the plans came to fruition, a much-needed lifeguard club building could include a meeting room where local groups, and voluntary organisations could meet.

The club is also aiming to improve access to the beach by building a new slipway to it, and plans are very well advanced on this part of the project.

Mr White said that the majority of the funding for the slipway had already been secured, and the club is submitting an application to the Big Lottery fund for the cash to build a new Lifeguard Centre.

Nev White said: "The innovative building will sit discreetly at the beach and provide a comfortable and sustainable environment for people to enjoy all year round.

"We want the building to contribute to the Heritage Coast in a positive way, both aesthetically and functionally. Our aim is to see the centre benefit club members and local residents alike."

The club has started a consultation period, talking to local residents and also the Vale Council. Last Saturday (July 16) they opened the doors of the existing clubhouse to show the draft plans of the building.

Geoff Gaen ,of the local council, said: " I was pleased to see so many people from the village attend and have a look at what the lifeguard club is planning."

If successful with the Lottery grant, the lifeguard club hopes to start work on the new building next year.

'Name choice would be affront to brave

THROUGHOUT the Vale, there are memorials to those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Two World Wars.

Millions gave up their livelihoods, put training on hold, joining the forces so that Great Britain would be a free country.

It would be an affront to the bravery of these men and women to name a school after a conscientious objector.

E Jenkins, Barry

Barry Island

WEEKENDERS

FREE Family events every weekend this summer

23 & 24 July

STREET DANCE WEEKENDER

Saturday features dance moves with DJ Sliding from 11am to 1pm and free face painting. From 11am on Sunday you'll be wowed by performances from a number of dance crews.

30 & 31 July

BRASS BAND WEEKENDER

Enjoy live music by the seaside from 12pm each day. Saturday - Newport Brass Band and Rogerstone Band. Sunday - Barry Brass Band and Ynyshir Brass Band.

6 & 7 August

ZAPCATS WEEKENDER

Fast and furious Zapcat Powerboat action. The adrenalin pumped racing will take place on both days, promising plenty of speedy excitement. From 11am both days.

13 & 14 August

STREET ART WEEKENDER

Help make a huge colourful chalk drawing along the prom on Saturday, while on Sunday watch graffiti artists at work and create your own masterpiece to take home. From 12pm both days.

20 & 21 August

STREET MUSIC WEEKENDER

Live music along the prom from 12pm both days. Saturday - Wonderbrass and Railroad Bill. Sunday - Hot Potato Syncopators and The Bucket Band, plus street entertainment.

27 & 28 August

SAND ART WEEKENDER

See an amazing 20 tonne sand sculpture being built over the weekend and don't miss the team from 'Sand in your Eye' creating a massive sand drawing on Saturday too! 9am to 5pm both days.

All events will take place along the prom or seafront. Please note that timings may be subject to change at short notice. For further details, please call 01446 704737 or go online at www.visitthevale.com

"Activities and entertainment for all ages"

4TH - 7TH AUGUST 2011

Central Park Live 2011 - The Dance, Music and Theatre Festival presents a spectacular summer showcase for all ages, whether you want to take part and learn a new style of dance or simply to sit back and enjoy the delights of dance from around the world, local bands and theatre, this four day festival is not to be missed! Brought to you by Motion Control Dance of Vibe Experience and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

WORLD OF DANCE

To celebrate 10 successful years of the Motion Control Dance Programme providing community dance in the Vale of Glamorgan, this event will bring together all aspects of dance from Street and Breakdance, to Salsa, Flamenco, Indian and Tai Chi, to Line Dancing, Belly Dancing, Zumba and so much more.

This free event will not only include performances, but a chance to take part and learn dance in a variety of daily workshops, kindly provided by organisations from across the Vale. Why not come along and have a go at dance, a fun, healthy lifelong activity that can be enjoyed by all ages of our community.

Thursday - Sunday 9.00am - 5.00pm

LIVE MUSIC

To celebrate some musical home grown talent upcoming bands and local bands such as 'Shooting the Moon', 'Leighton Jones', 'Shamons', 'The Queue' and 'Brother Steve' will all be performing LIVE on stage in the fabulous Central Park amphitheatre.

Friday and Saturday evening 5.30-9.30pm.

OPEN AIR THEATRE

The Festival will close with two free open air theatre performances from SWICKA of "MAGICK - The Last Royal Wizard" A 50 strong cast of carnival, circus and street performers present this visually stunning family show featuring scheming magicians, swashbuckling adventurers, acrobats and Welsh Indian warriors! Don't miss the show of summer!

Sunday - Performances 12.00 & 3.00pm

For enquiries please contact one of the following:

Dance - emma@vibeexperience.com
Music - mikebendell@vibeexperience.com
Vale Event Officer - sejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Archbishop preaches at Gileston church

The congregation of St Giles church, Gileston, were delighted to welcome the Archbishop of Wales, The Most Reverend Dr Barry Morgan, to their service recently.

His sermon was based on the parable of the sower and he gave a timely encouragement to the often small congregation to be faithful and to trust God with the results of everything that they do.

Sunday services at Gileston church are at 9am each week, with occasional evening events. Look out for a special evening praise service on September 18 at 6pm. Everyone welcome!

REV MELANIE PRINCE

Outdoor fun for Eagleswell Primary School

ABOVE; Matthew Hughes, financial controller (right) is thanked by Eagleswell acting head Chris Morgan as pupils try out the outdoor play tables.

A RECENT donation by Aberthaw Power Station has helped provide outdoor play equipment for pupils at Eagleswell School, Llantwit Major.

The picnic-style tables have games such as snakes and ladders and a maze built in to encourage games for outdoor fun.

"I must thank the power station for supporting the school, in providing these outdoor play resources," said acting head Chris Morgan.

TOWN'S DEBT OF GRATITUDE

WALKING down the Boverton Road in Llantwit Major last Saturday, I was so impressed by the new plants and flowers.

After the recent bad press about the town, may I use your paper to praise Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower.

The planting is colourful and clever and the plants are beautifully cared for by the volunteer committee. Since the paving has been replaced and improved, this part of the town is really looking smart.

Caroline Leonard, Llantwit Major

Colourful Llantwit!

THE work on Boverton Road has made a huge difference to access and convenience, but what has really set it all off is the work of the Llantwit in Bloom group.

It is a pleasure to enjoy the flowers so artistically planted.

These and the flowers planted and displayed by so many businesses, have transformed the centre of the town.

We residents owe a huge debt of gratitude to the volunteers, who devote so much time, and also the shopkeepers who have risen to the challenge to make things even better.

When trees are planted in the autumn, our town will truly be transformed.

Colin and Isobel Jenkins, Llantwit Major

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

Condolences

IT is with great sadness that we report the death of 'Rose' Guy of the Farmers Arms (Pub on the Pond) after a very long illness, bravely borne.

She will be sadly missed by all. Our thoughts go to the family at this time.

Charity walk

ON Monday, August 28, there is a sponsored walk from St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, in aid of Children in Distress. *Sponsor forms from Sheila at the Vicarage, St Brides Major.*

Thursday Club

THE end of an era – Thursday, July 14, was the last meeting of the Ladies Thursday Club in St Brides Major C/w School.

It was with sadness and regret that the Ladies Thursday Club, formerly Association of Women's Clubs (run by the Council of Social Services for Wales and Monmouthshire, were disbanding after 64 years.

The club commenced in 1947, formed by 32 ladies and first met at the church hall and then at Crofta Penylan Road and Bryn Sion chapel vestry, before being granted permission to use the school premises, and latterly the 'new school'.

Unfortunately, time and age have caught up with the few remaining 13 faithful members and the decision, regrettably, has been to disband.

Having had a farewell lunch at the Farmer's Arms on July 7, there was plenty to talk about at the last meeting.

Although one of our faithful members Margaret Harwood was not able to attend because of ill health, her two daughters came along.

Another long-time member, Susie Thomas, now living in Bristol with daughters for health reasons, was in our thoughts.

A toast to past and present members was drunk and an iced cake was cut.

Thanks were also extended to those who had helped to keep the club going over the past few years.

Thursday evenings during term time will not be the same!

Bag it and Bin it

THE beach ban came into force from May 1, until September 30 for dogs, but problems are still arising over dog fouling. It is an offence not to clean up after your dog. Bag it and Bin it is the slogan.

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Put Supermarket on Waterfront'

I FEEL I have to respond to Mr Hartwell's letter and "unbelievable" comments regarding the Barry councillors' vote against Sainsbury's coming to Barry.

I fear Mr Hartwell has missed the point completely.

The overwhelming feeling against the store was in fact the location, and not a vote against the supermarket. I cannot begin to speak for the 3,000 plus who signed the petition, although I'm pretty sure the majority would welcome Sainsbury's to Barry – but in a more appropriate position, and not opposite a school and extremely busy junction and roundabout. Why not at the Waterfront, where there is ample room to accommodate another giant supermarket?

Teresa Clark, Barry

'Ridiculous place for supermarket'

I CANNOT believe the letter written by Michael Hartwell in The GEM on July 14, regarding the planning committee's decision to deny the application for Sainsbury's store.

In the first place, this was always a ridiculous place to put a supermarket. Has he even looked at the proposed plans? This decision was based on the very dangerous location, its limited parking facilities and the difficulties and the effect on local residents.

It was stated by me, on behalf of many, that we are not against Sainsbury's coming to Barry. We would welcome them – and, indeed, better locations have been suggested.

Coun Janice Charles, Barry

Facing up to the threat in store

SO Mr Hartwell believes we need another supermarket chain in Barry... If he had attended the council meeting when this was discussed, he would have better understood the arguments relating to the provision of a Sainsbury's store in this location.

He asks whether the people objecting use local stores, rather than M&S or B&Q. The answer, in my case, is yes.

The cost of petrol being what it is, I will always try to find an item in Barry rather than outside, and that includes all the shops on Park Crescent and the High Street.

If Mr Hartwell wants a supermarket or minimarket, he already has a choice in Barry, of Lidl, Waitrose, The Co-operative, Tesco and Morrisons.

The majority of people who signed the petition did so voluntarily – I never saw anyone having their arms twisted – and they did so because they wanted to see the character of Park Crescent shopping retained, not destroyed by yet another supermarket chain

A Sainsbury's store would be a jobs, community and livelihood killer for most of the other businesses on Park Crescent and we must not allow this thriving community to be devastated.

David Kennett, Barry

We welcome GEM readers' views on matters of local interest. Email us at gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'RECYCLING WOULD STOP WHINGING'

I AM fed up with all this whinging about the problems of black bag collections – there are more important issues to worry about in this country today.

I agree with the writers, Mr and Mrs Poole from Barry Island. No-one mentioned recycling. My wife and I recycle food, cardboard/plastics, newspapers, cans and glass. We also have a plastic dustbin to keep our black bag in (yes, one bag a fortnight).

There was a letter in The GEM letters page about three weeks ago on the same subject, complaining about carbon footprints because of journeys to the waste disposal units, the cost of petrol and wear and tear of the car! All of you ought to get a life.

Cuts have got to be made because of the state the country is in; it hurts but would you rather see some of the council work force made redundant because of the cuts?

My whinge is householders who don't recycle. Opposite my house are streets of about 120 houses. I have counted the food waste buckets for the Wednesday collection – 25 in all – and it's the same with the other fortnightly recycling days.

Why can't the council make it compulsory, as they do in Cardiff?

The food waste recycling, if made compulsory, would stop most of the problems of black bags being ripped open by all and sundry.

(Name and address supplied)

Sainsbury's: too late to complain

I WRITE in response to Michael Hartwell (last week's GEM) who has totally missed the point as to the reasoning of the planning committee in rejecting Sainsbury's planning application in respect of 39-40 Park Crescent, Barry.

It has been made clear to Sainsbury's throughout the planning process that their presence in Barry would be more than welcome, but that their choice of location was unsuitable.

For the councillors to have allowed Sainsbury's to open a busy retail store with long opening hours within yards of a highly populated residential area, opposite Barry's largest primary school, next to a well-used pedestrian crossing, and at the junction of a busy roundabout where traffic chaos already reigns, would have been preposterous and unthinkable.

The decision to reject the proposal (made after site visits by the planning committee) was the only sensible outcome.

If Mr Hartwell and his friends were so supportive of Sainsbury's, why didn't they make their views known during the planning process?

In addition to the 3,500 names on the petition (not 3,000 as Mr Hartwell states), the council received hundreds of individual letters of objection to the proposal, and just a single letter of support.

Everyone had the chance to make their views known and it is far too late to be complaining about the decision now.

Leanne Sokolski, Barry

'Amazed at opposition'

I AM amazed that letter writer Mr Hartwell is opposed to the council's decision not to allow Sainsbury's to locate to Park Crescent.

As I understand it, this was to be a 'Local', therefore the range of goods to be sold would have been limited. He has not taken into account the adverse effect this would have had on a major road beside a school.

The council were opposed to the location, not to Sainsbury's and I am sure they would assist them in finding a more suitable location.

I am a very frequent visitor to Barry and take a great interest in the town, as a union representative.

Tony Strudwick, Gloucester

WAITING FOR THE RUBBISH COLLECTION

THE Vale Council's CS Parish is either naive or ignorant of the reality of fortnightly refuse collections.

At the time of writing (Saturday evening) I have five full black bags sitting on, and spoiling, my garden patio.

One of them is full of used cat litter, which has been accumulating for nine days – your readers can imagine the stench.

Not to mention the other bags which, despite separate food waste collections, have numerous malodorous food containers such as tin cans, plastic trays and other materials contaminated with stale food.

And there are still another four and a half days of further accumulation to go, before I can dispose of this unsanitary nuisance.

This situation is clearly unacceptable and it's outrageous that the Vale Council allows it to continue.

I have previously called for the council to supply wheelie bins for the safe storage of household waste.

If they cannot agree to that, then they must reinstate weekly collections – we cannot continue to live in these unhygienic conditions. (CS Parish take note).

Christopher Ware, Barry

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VALE CONTENDERS DO THEIR BEST IN ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE WELSH TITLES

THE final of the 'Miss Wales' and 'Mr Wales' competitions took place recently in St David's Hall, Cardiff.

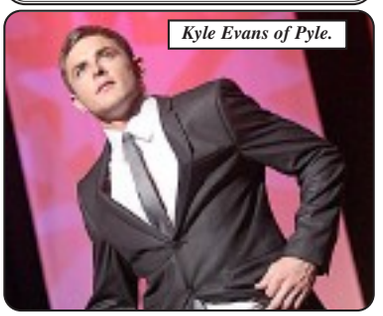
Although they didn't win, young men and women from The GEM's circulation area featured prominently in the evening.

The prime motive for the event, of course, was once again raising funds for the Joshua Foundation, which works to help children with cancer.

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

Other pictures are available from this event.

They can be purchased by contacting: e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

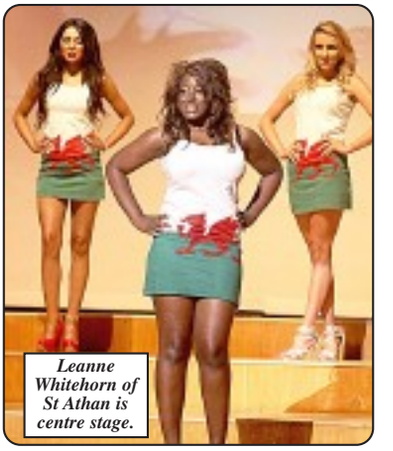


Kyle Evans of Pyle.

Tatyana Owen of Barry (above) and (below) Stephanie Lubbock of Porthcawl

George Blick of Llantwit Major

Barry's Samara Matthews (above) and (below) George Blick.



Leanne Whitehorn of St Athan is centre stage.

Last year's Miss Wales, Courtenay Hamilton of St Donat's meeting a contestant.

As cinema's biggest franchise comes to an end...

Potter's final outing drips with magic, but not enough depth

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - **@GEMScreenTalk**

ALL good things must come to an end, whether it is Shane Williams' international career, Cheryl Cole's tenure on American X Factor or Ryan Giggs' reputation as a family man.

However, the hole left by *Harry Potter* on the cinematic landscape will certainly be a prominent one. Seven films with a global box office of $4.5billion is certainly nothing to be sniffed at, and the final part of the story seems certain to add to that.

Part two of the final book, *The Deathly Hallows*, picks up where part one left off, with Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson) heading back to Hogwarts in order to try and thwart Voldermort's (Ralph Fiennes) plans to bring a dark shadow across the world.

As the stakes are raised like never before, will the three friends, and other members of Hogwarts, be able to stop the evil Voldermort once and for all...

Ten years on from its auspicious debut, and the *Harry Potter* franchise has never show any signs of slowing down. With all eyes fixed on the final outing, the biggest question was whether or not the film would manage to go out with a bang rather than a whimper?

The answer is a little bit of both...as while *The Deathly Hallows: Part 2* is a fitting end to the biggest film series of all time, it also suffers from similar foibles to its predecessors.

With David Yates on his fourth outing as director, there is a pleasing sense of urgency about the film, the director obviously relishing the opportunity to close the series in the right way possible.

From the opening set-piece (a raid on Gringots bank) Yates executes the spectacle with flair and precision, delivering some wonderful action moments.

When the films shifts into the siege at Hogwarts, as Voldermort and his army do battle with Harry and his makeshift group of students and parents, there is more than a hint of the grandiose action that Peter Jackson offered in the *Lord of the Rings trilogy*, Yates using the scope to full effect.

The cast also bring their best for last, with Daniel Radcliffe giving Harry a little more depth this time around as the magnitude of events take hold, while Emma Watson and Rupert Grint are as bookishly likeable and amusing as they have always been.

While some of the adult cast are reduced to being high-profile extras (Jim Broadbent, Julie Walters, Mark Williams), the likes of Maggie Smith and Ralph Fiennes deliver the goods, while Alan Rickman stands out as we learn the back story of Snape and the reasons for his actions.

As ever, Steve Kloves adapts the book well, the story moving with verve, but as is always the case, there is plenty that goes unexplained or passed over, lessening the dramatic effect.

While this film, more than any of the others, raises the stakes with the possibility of most of the cast being offed, any drama from these moments is reduced by all too often glossing over what has happened.

There are several deaths that will resonate with the audience, but Kloves' screenplay is too busy to linger on the ramifications of them, instead moving on a little too swiftly, the climax in particular feeling terribly flat.

While it isn't the finest of the series (that honour going to … *Prisoner of Azkaban*), … *The Deathly Hallows: Part 2* is still a grandiose and fitting way to end the films, and will no doubt please the hordes of fans savouring their final slice of the boy wizard.

VERDICT – So long to Harry Potter, but it is a goodbye that will more than satisfy the muggles. The usual book-to-screen issues aside, the strong direction of David Yates and pleasing turns across the board mean that …*The Deathly Hallows: Part 2* is a fitting farewell. *Recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: All of the *Harry Potter* films, *The Return of the King*.

Hardy plants on sale

A PLANT sale will be held on July 23 at Cowbridge Lesser Town Hall from 10am-12.30pm – with free entry to all.

There will be interesting and unusual plants grown by members of the Hardy Plant Society and also specialist nurseries.

Teas, coffees and homemade cakes available.

BARRY CAMERA CLUB NEWS

The ever-changing Vale landscape is captured on film!

MONDAY, July 4 saw Jane Hutt AM open Barry Camera Club's Heritage Coast exhibition at St Donat's Arts Centre.

The exhibition, mounted by club members, captured the ever-changing mood and coastal beauty spots of the area.

The AM said: "The Barry Camera Club exhibition featuring the Heritage Coast is an inspiration and well worth a visit over the next few weeks at St Donat's Arts Centre. The skill, as well as talent, is exceptional, bringing out the beauty and diversity of our coastline in the Vale of Glamorgan."

The images are depictions of the Heritage Coast taken as a set subject for one of the club's monthly competitions, which were later critiqued and a winner awarded.

This exhibition is an outstanding record and account for future prosperity of our lovely locality, which will be carried over to the annual exhibition in Barry Library throughout August.

Jane Hutt opening Barry Camera Club's Heritage Coast exhibition with vice-chair Barbra Archdale-Smith.

Barry Camera Club's Heritage Coast exhibition is open at St Donat's Arts Centre on weekdays from 10am-4pm until July 28.

The exhibition will also be open on some weekend dates, subject to other events being held.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX.

Barbra Archdale-Smith

Screening service says **'thank you!'**

A HUGE 'Thank You' has been issued by Breast Test Wales – to the public and the community in Barry, for supporting its mobile visit to the area.

The unit, which has been based at Morrison's car park since April moved out on July 22.

Dafydd Snelling, a screening promotion officer with the NHS service, commented: "We are very grateful to Morrison's for allowing us to site our mobile unit within their car park."

Out and About with The GEM

Former boxing champ Nicky in run for hospice care charity

Nicky Piper with wife Juliet, son Oliver aged nine and six-year-old Imogen are in training for GTHC's Spar 3k 4 Kidz event.

FORMER Welsh boxing champ Nicky Piper and his family are heading a fun run for charity next month.

George Thomas Hospice Care (GTHC) is appealing for families to join its first family fun run – the Spar 3k 4 Kidz on August 14 at Bute Park, Cardiff.

All funds raised will support patients and their families with cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

GTHC's fundraising and events officer Nicky Piper was one of the first to sign his family up for the event and said: "We held a really successful 5k run in March and the minimum age allowed was 11, but there were so many children cheering their parents on who wanted to run that the idea for the 3k 4 Kidz was conceived.

"We're all having great fun training together as a family and getting fit, too!"

To sign up for the Spar3k 4 Kidz event call GTHC on 029 20 524150 or go to www.gthc.org.uk

Competition winner

THE winner of our recent competition in conjunction with The Cross Inn, for a meal for two (prize to the value of £25) was Mrs A Evans, of Barry. Congratulations!

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OPEN WED, THURS, FRI & SAT NIGHTS
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WITH FULL FOOD MENU AVAILABLE
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Saturday, 23rd July
Maxine Female Vocalist
Friday 29th July
Live Band
Terry Reep & the Healers
Rhythm & Blues Band
Saturday 30th July
Dean Ritchie Male Vocalist
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The Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D679.

- **The rollover, which now stands at £500, was not won this week.**
- **£2,000:** 563158.
- **£1,000:** Rollover, no winner
- **£10:** 626538, 595693, 592225, 843674, 407303, 460641, 276744, 220146, 225631, 703595, 680652, 828129, 367296, 339967, 298496, 508509, 238729, 116795, 626280, 286857.
- **£5:** . 471136, 405468, 975158, 540114, 280680, 105350, 501410, 402339, 118539, 578121, 668228, 732529, 897922, 688028, 798941, 609408, 340956, 523283, 121677, 463944, 392346, 357125, 179268, 542009, 319292, 414318, 820665, 866491, 524313, 788880, 958259, 792347, 360826, 108192, 303092, 670870, 562604, 886862, 543601, 827302, 583367, 848996, 610000, 740454, 212140, 782770, 301219, 683925, 282293, 418300, 543041, 847697, 754651, 974635, 583182, 641393,424234, 709875, 553532, 190806.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information telephone 02920 672062.

What's On in and around your area

Tea party for Marie Curie

FOLLOWING the success of 'Blooming Great Tea Parties' held in the offices of Larby Williams, the staff have decided to hold their third tea party in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care on Friday, July 29, from 2.30pm-4.30pm at The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge.

"There is no charge for the tea and cakes but we would ask people attending to make a donation to the charity.

"Representatives from Marie Curie will be at the tea to explain the wonderful service they provide," a spokesperson said.

Holiday club

NEXT month, the Methodist church in the Vale children's and youth team will hold its annual Holiday Club, and jungle jamboree is the theme.

Holiday Club for children in school classes 1 to 6 will be at The Gathering Place, Methodist Church & Community Centre, from August 2-4, at 10am-12.30pm; £1 entry per day. ***For information, contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406 262 or email: revpeter@live.co.uk***

Fun dog show

PORTHCAWL Animal Welfare Society is holding its annual fun dog show on Bank Holiday, Sunday, August 28, at Salt Lake, Porthcawl; craft stalls, food and refreshments and pet competitions.

Contact Liz on 0781 4244255 or visit: www.pawsporthcawl.co

Roadworks report

Temporary traffic control: *A4050 Port Road East, Barry, outside The White Lion public house, East Street, Llanwit Major.*

Road closure: *George Street, Barry; Terra North Way from junction of Penarth Portway to roundabout, Marconi Avenue*

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Thanking everyone for their continued support

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Before you make that important decision, come along to one of our open days and talk to our expert staff about how we can meet the individual needs of you and your child.
Come to one of our weekly OPEN DAYS Every Thursday 10am-noon, 2pm - 4pm No need to book!
Our nursery is carefully designed to ensure we offer the best possible environment for children from 6 weeks to 8 years.
We have recently refurbished the nursery and are proud to have received an excellent CSSIW inspection report - come along and find out why!
We also offer school clubs before and after school and are open 52 weeks a year from 7.30am - 6pm.
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Just Learning Nurseries
www.justlearning.co.uk

Let us know how your summer event went. Email us at ***gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk***

The new going 'out' is to visit . . .
The BLACKSMITHS ARMS
LLANMAES
NEW MENU *a must try!*
DAILY SPECIALS BOARD
NEW! 5 Fish Dishes £7.95 - £10.25
NEW! 7 Pasta/Noodle Dishes £7.95 - £8.25
NEW! 11 Vegetarian Dishes £7.25 - £8.75
SUNDAY LUNCH 12 noon - 4pm

	1 Course	2 Course	3 Course
Adult	£7.95	£9.95	£11.95
Child	£5.50	£7.50	£9.50

6 Superb Starters £3.75 - £4.75
Filled Breads £4.75 - £5.25
First choose a bread then choose from 5 fillings
6 Salads £7.25 - £7.50
8 Favourites/ Chargrills £7.95 - £13.95
Includes Blacksmiths famous home-made burger
NEW – SUNDAY EVENING (Kitchen Closed) . . .
FUN QUIZ and now bring your own food or order a takeaway!
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www.wildaboutbeads.co.uk
(Birthday specials valid from 18th - 23rd July)

Cubs and Scouts' VC10 visit

ON Wednesday, July 6, the Cubs and Scouts of the 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Group assembled at the West entrance to RAF St Athan.

Their mission was to visit the Defence Support hangar and be shown around VC10 K3, ZA148 that was being serviced in the facility.

This was part of the 'air activities badge' for the Cubs. After a quick trip to the hangar, they were allowed onto the aircraft to be shown round, starting on the flight deck to see the controls, gauges and switches used to control the aircraft.

At this point, the Scouts also took the opportunity to invest a Scout into the troop. This aircraft has no passenger seats, as it is used to refuel other aircraft in flight, so the Cubs were allowed to walk alongside the extra fuel tanks and out of the rear door to look at the engines.

After a climb up the staging, the rudder controls were explained to them and at the top, they looked down on the whole aircraft from about 30 feet above the fuselage and wings.

Well done to some of the younger Cubs who overcame their fear of heights to make it all the way to the top. They later saw how the aircraft refuels other aircraft while flying.

The following week the aircraft finished its servicing and went back to work with the Royal Air Force.

The Cubs and Scouts would like to thank Mr Gerry Turnbull for allowing the visit to take place. **ROBERT McNICHOL**

Megan's poem is winner of bard's 'chair'

Megan's poem won – pupils had written on the theme 'Y Fro' (My Vale).

THE chairing of the bard ceremony at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg has become the pinnacle event in the school's calendar.

In true tradition and in recognition of Iolo Morganwg's work in establishing the Gorsedd of Bards, the children wrote poems and entered them in the prestigious competition.

Local poet and entertainer, Caryl Parry-Jones judged the event and complimented each child on their individual style and high standard. This year's winner was Megan Rees. (Pictured).

Caryl Parry-Jones commented that the standard this year was fantastic and the children's ability to write poems was very high. Children wrote following the theme 'Y Fro' (My Vale) and this was chosen to celebrate the fact that the National Eisteddfod is being held at Llandow next year.

In recognition of her success, Megan was awarded the title, along with a beautiful miniature chair that she will treasure as a prize.

The winning entry:

Fy Mro i ....

Gyda fi gallet fynd i fyd mawr hardd,
Gyda fi gallet weld afonydd a choed,
Gyda fi gallet deimlo'r gwynt yn chwythu,
Gyda fi gallet deimlo d_r yn chwerthin o gwmpas dy bigyrnau,
Gyda fi gallet weld afon fel rhuban glas yn cuddio'r creigiau sydd yn gorffwys yn ddistaw,
Gyda fi gallet fynd i draethau mawr creigiog,
Gyda fi gallet weld môr glaswyrdd yn codi'n tyrrau cyn syrthio lawr i fwrlwm o swigod gwyn,
Gyda fi gallet droedio llwybrau'r seintiau a chyndeidiau,
Gyda fi gallet fwynhau'r fro hyfryd hon.

Gan Megan Rees

A Fabulous Competition in conjunction with McArthurGlen *and* The Glamorgan GEM

High Days and Holidays Boost Sales at McArthurGlen's Bridgend Designer Outlet

McArthurGlen's Bridgend Designer Outlet has reported a +5% rise in sales and +7% increase in footfall during June, as shoppers headed to the centre in droves, eager to pick up the latest summer look.

With over 90 premium and high street brands at the centre, with savings of up to 60%, McArthurGlen Bridgend benefited from shoppers seeking stylish outfits for weddings, holidays and other key summer events.

Richard Garratt, Centre Manager at McArthurGlen Bridgend's Designer Outlet, says: "When people have less disposable income and reduced spending power, it fuels the demand for high-quality products at lower prices, which is exactly what we offer at McArthurGlen Bridgend – premium brands at up to 60% less. Summer is one of the busiest times of the year for us: in just one weekend footfall can exceed 25,000."

The largest designer outlet in Wales, McArthurGlen Bridgend is one of the top leisure attractions in the country, receiving over 3.5 million visitors annually.

Many brands hold their only stand-alone store in Wales at McArthurGlen's Bridgend Designer Outlet, from high street favourites French Connection and Ted Baker to luxury accessories label OSPREY LONDON.

Louise Evans, McArthurGlen Style Consultant, says, "Everyone wants to look their best during the summer but buying a whole new wardrobe or special occasion outfit can get very expensive. The wide range of fashion brands and fantastic value at McArthurGlen's Bridgend Designer Outlet helps customers make clever choices for the summer season. Recent new additions to the centre, Phase Eight and Billabong, offer the perfect summer solutions for shoppers – whether they're looking to follow the latest beachwear trends whilst on holiday or stand out in style at a wedding."

The Information Office
McARTHURGLEN DESIGNER OUTLET
The Derwen, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF32 9SU

Prize Draw Entrants to complete and send to the McArthurGlen information office (above).

Name .....

Address .....

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.....Tel.....

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and much more!

Spend £20 or more on our Wines and Liqueurs for 10% off
(offer valid from 14th July - 11th August)
upon quoting GEM offer source

Visit . . .
Cwm Deri Welsh Kiosk
McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, Bridgend, CF32 9SU
01656 645520
www.cwm-deri.co.uk

To celebrate the summer season, **McArthurGlen Bridgend is offering one lucky Glamorgan Gem reader £50's worth of shopping vouchers to spend at the designer outlet.**

To enter the competition, please answer the question below . . .

What was the percentage increase in sales for June at McArthurGlen's Bridgend Designer Outlet?

(a) +3%; (b) +5%; (c) +6%

Closing date Thursday, 28th July. (All entrants must be 18 or over - *Normal competition rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into)*

CHARITY GOLF

JOIN celebrity and corporate golfers for a charity golf day in aid of British Heart Foundation Cymru, at the Lake Course, Vale Hotel Resort, on September 20. What better way to treat your favourite clients to a day of golf in aid of your local British Heart Foundation fundraising group

For more details contact Sharon Owen on 029 2038 2408 or email: owensh@bhf.org.uk

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TOWN WALLS CELEBRATION DEFIES THE RAIN AS HISTORIC RESTORATION WORK IS FINISHED

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

WEATHER may have dampened the atmosphere, but not the spirit of Cowbridge Charter Trust's town walls celebration last Saturday, a truncated programme of which had to be transferred to Cowbridge Town Hall in the adverse circumstances.

Trust chairman, Hugh Field, said, "It was hugely to be regretted that we were forced into a last-minute change of plan.

"Had the event taken place in Old Hall Gardens, next to the town walls and the regeneration programme going on in the garden, it would have made for a perfect celebration.

"Despite all that, our volunteers did their very best to cope and to raise the spirits, in addition to which we had the presence of the Vale Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, our MP, Alun Cairns and our AM, Jane Hutt."

The gathering in the town hall was addressed by the president of the trust, Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, who paid tribute to the work carried out by the trust.

He said: "When I brought HRH the Prince of Wales to Cowbridge, he was captivated and said: *Why haven't I been here before?*"

He said that the Duchess of Cornwall was now a patron of the Physic Garden, and he was sure that when the Prince saw all the new work that had been done since his visit, he would be doubly impressed.

Speaking after the event, Hugh Field said: "We were splendidly entertained by the Volunteer Band of RAF St Athan under their conductor, Alan Bourne, by the delightful Belladonna ladies' choir and by the CADS' thespians, Peter Knapp and Geoff Grist, who gave us the Dick Buswell-scripted presentation of 750 years of Cowbridge town walls history – a wise and witty account of our town's history, condensed into a duologue of 18 minutes' duration.

"Since then we've had several requests for a repeat performance, for a video or a presentation of the script in pamphlet form – it was that good," he said.

A ceillidh danced to the music of Dick Tonkin's Thingummyjigs rounded off a day that included refreshments provided by Cowbridge Fairtrade, and a bar provided by the Bear Hotel and run jointly be Peter Croke and Ross Chamberlain.

Pictures of the event can be seen on the website:Cowbridge-Charter-Trust.co.uk.

PHOTOGRAPHS by **MIKE WILCOCK**

When the early afternoon bad weather had cleared, there was an opportunity for all to examine the restored town walls.

Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards.

ABOVE: Cowbridge deputy mayor Coun Nicola Thomas, Vale MP Alun Cairns and Basil Watkins.

RIGHT: To coincide with the town walls celebrations, ladies from the local history society opened the 'History Room' in the Old Hall .

The Belladonna Ladies Choir

Schoolboy in 15-minute battle to land Lake Carol's prize carp catch!

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

AN eight-year-old Barry schoolboy fought for 15 minutes with a line and rod to land a prize carp weighing in at an impressive 9lbs.

Joe Osborne, who attends All Saints Primary School, made the catch on only his fourth fishing trip with dad Tom, a member of Glamorgan Anglers Club.

He told The GEM: "My dad Tom and I went fishing on July 10 at Lake Carol by Dow Corning – the old dock pond in Barry.

"While my dad was setting up his gear, a kind, older man offered to set me up to catch 'some big fish'. I'd only caught small fish before!

"He gave me some traditional tips and advice while my dad had a break.

"The man then asked me to look after his rod while he took a stroll around the lake."

No sooner had the man left, than Joe struck lucky by hooking the fish.

"I fought the fish on my own for about 15 minutes and then needed help to land it onto the bank.

"It was a common carp weighing in at around 8-9lbs – although I was told the scales weren't accurate so it's difficult to be certain.

"After the fish was weighed we put it back in the water."

Proud dad Tom said: "It was the biggest fish caught that morning among the group of anglers in the vicinity – embarrassing for the more experienced senior members!

"In a society where people generally keep themselves to themselves, it was really nice for a stranger to voluntarily help Joe and give some of his time to help.

"I appreciated the break! My guess is that Joe will forget most of the modern day experiences, like scooters, bikes, and electronic gaming systems, but he will never forget an experience like this.

"Joe and I would like to thank the kind gentleman for his help."

ABOVE:
Joe caught the carp on only his fourth fishing expedition with dad Tom.

Phantom 'Mayday' puzzles teams

FREAK atmospheric conditions are thought to be behind a phantom 'Mayday' call that caused a major alert in the Bristol Channel last week.

The volunteer crew of the RNLI's Barry Dock Lifeboat joined the search when the call came in on Thursday, July 14, at 9:15pm

The cox'n of the Barry Dock Lifeboat, Hugh 'Spud' Davies, said that a weak Mayday signal was heard by the Portland HM Coastguard and it was believed to be in the Bristol Channel area.

HM Coastguard at Swansea immediately launched the Barry Dock Lifeboat to search a large area between Flatholme and Stout Point.

The HM Coastguard Search and Rescue team from Barry were also deployed to search the coastline.

After a number of hours, the teams were stood down with nothing found.

Gerry Adams, press officer for Barry RNLI, told The GEM: "It is believed that the transmitted Mayday signal may have 'bounced' off the St Hilary mast, due to the atmospherics at the time."

£450 raised for church funds

The boys at the barbie!

THE sun shone and people turned out in force for All Saints Church fundraising barbecue on July 10.

Burgers and hotdogs were served with a delicious range of salads, followed by ice creams and fresh fruit salad. The Pimms bar went down well as did the bouncy castle, which kept the children amused all afternoon!

A great time was had by all, and £450 was raised towards the church conversion project now under way, which will enable All Saints to be opened up for parish and community use throughout the week.

A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make the afternoon a success.

Two local supporters of the Healing the Wounds charity, Tracy Darby and Christine Pullen, braved the rain in Llantwit Major to show their support for the fundraising initiative at Cardiff Airport which starts on August 1.

'Healing the Wounds' fundraiser at Airport

CARDIFF AIRPORT will be the focus of a fundraising event from August 1-October 31, on behalf of the Bridgend-based Armed Forces charity, Healing the Wounds.

Healing the Wounds was set up by Kevin Richards, a former military medic just under two years ago.

The aim of the charity is to offer treatment and support to serving military and former military personnel who, due to conflict of war, may be suffering from 'post traumatic stress disorder' (PTSD).

The effects of PTSD on military personnel not only affects them, but can impact on their families too.

Kevin Richards, founder of the charity, said: "We would like to thank Cardiff Airport for their fantastic support which will help us to provide much needed treatment within Wales for our Armed Forces, Veterans and their families.

"Dedicated volunteers will help us to raise money to continue providing this facility within Wales."

Margaret James, Cardiff Airport's contracts and quality manager, said: "We're delighted to offer our support to such a worthy cause, and hope that staff and passengers at the airport will be generous in their donations to help raise much needed funds for Healing the Wounds, an excellent charity supporting the armed forces here in Wales."

If you would like to get involved in 'Healing the Wounds' fundraising at Cardiff Airport, please call 01446 795137; or go to the charity's website www.healingthewounds.co.uk.

Winners in The Night Garden!

THE winners of The GEM's 'In The Night Garden' competition were Jane Foster and Vivienne Burdiscombe; runners-up were Angela Sullivan, L Watts and Sarah Sellen.

Mrs Vivienne Biddiscombe writes: "I would just like to express my delight at being a winner in your recent In The Night Garden competition.

"The prize included four tickets to see the show at Bute Park, Cardiff. I, along with my son Gareth, daughter-in-law Nicola, and granddaughter Carys - enjoyed the show immensely.

"I've attached a photograph of my granddaughter, Carys Biddiscombe who attends High Street Infants School, Barry."

Carys is pictured above with Uppsy Daisy and Iggle Piggle, two of her favourite television characters."

We're sure you all had a great time with Iggle Piggle and Co!

Watch out for more great GEM competitions!

OUT OF TOWN 'Meet the People' update

Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Llantrisant & Ystradowen

Why community shopping makes more sense than ever!

COMMUNITY shopping looks set for a renaissance in the future – because it makes such good sense in saving fuel and time, supporting local jobs, and dealing with someone the shoppers can get to know and trust.

Pontyclun, Talbot Green and Llantrisant are prime examples of bustling village and town economies that are thriving, thanks to the huge variety of services on offer.

One local shopper, Sandra Patterson, a care worker who supports people with learning difficulties in Llanharry, said she and her family all use local shopping areas.

Sandra lives in Tonyrefail and told The GEM: "It is so convenient for me to pop into the shops in Pontyclun or Talbot Green during my working day.

"Today my sister and I are having our hair done, but in Pontyclun I use the post office, the butchers and have been to the pub for a Christmas meal and karaoke.

"My husband Arthur, and son Matthew, who works in Llantrisant, also shop locally."

Sandra also picks up prescriptions at the local chemists and can deal with any banking at the same time.

Local butcher John Hughes said that although the life-blood of the local economy is thanks to the loyalty of people in nearby villages and the Rhondda Valley, businesses also get healthy trade thanks to people passing through.

"We get customers from Barry, Cardiff and Swansea – there's a lot of passing trade.

John lives in Porthcawl, owned a shop in Pencoed, but relocated to more spacious premises in Pontyclun 18 years ago and hasn't looked back.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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THE COMMUNITY SHOP
9-13 Cowbridge Road, PONTYCLUN
The Charity Shop for the connoisseur
The shop is the venture of the parish of Pontyclun with Talygarn. We welcome customers and donations.
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★ Curtains
★ Children's Dept - Prams etc
★ Furniture – Second Hand
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Tel: 01443 222444
We collect and deliver

OUT OF TOWN
'Meet the People' update
Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Llantrisant & Ystradowen

PEOPLE ON YOUR FRIENDLY HIGH ST

Nancy, Derreck and Vanessa, part of the team at The Community Shop.

A helpful service is always guaranteed!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

He said: "People like the village atmosphere here – and the variety of businesses on offer."

Just a glance up and down the high street confirms John's claim – florists, banks, coffee shops, restaurants, bistros, travel agents, chemists, physiotherapists, beauty salons – why go into Cardiff to shop when its all on your doorstep?

One of the most familiar shops in Pontyclun is the Community Shop, which was started 20 years ago by Kath Jones and Father Martin Reynolds.

Vanessa Pullman, the manager, said: "We are grateful for donations from the public, and support both local community causes, and charities such as Velindre, Ty Hafan and Afrikids.

"We have 26 part time staff who help to run the shop, and they come from Pontyclun, Brynsadler, Talbot Green and Llantrisant.

"People shop locally because they like the atmosphere, and we get people from as far away as Aberdare."

People who buy from the huge choice of clothes, CDs, books, toys, ornaments and pictures are pleased to know that the shop is putting something back into the community.

ABOVE: Mother and daughter team: Diana Pika and Ingrid Brooks from Ingy's Undies.

ABOVE: Old Llantrisant is popular with shoppers and tourists.

ABOVE: Glenn Brooks is the face of the south Wales Benefits Service.

ABOVE: Beth Giles of Giles Gallery.

ABOVE: John Hughes and Bruce Chivers... The butchers!

ABOVE: Rhian Evans is The House In Town boutique.

ABOVE: Marcus Foster, barber.

MARCUS'S BARBER SHOP

Marcus Foster, a familiar face locally, has opened his own business in Pontyclun

Gents £7.50
O.A.Ps £6.00
Children £7.00

OPEN
Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri 9.00am - 6.00pm
Closed Thurs; Sat 9.00am - 4.00pm

1 Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun CF72 9EA
(Next to Post Office)

the White Lion YSTRADOWEN

The White Lion public house and restaurant is set in picturesque Ystradowen on the main Pontyclun to Cowbridge road.

(Winner of best kept village 2010 award)

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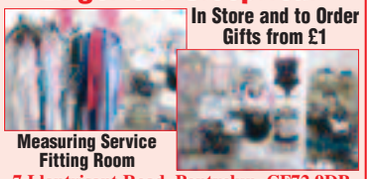

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Giles Gallery, houses locally made arts and crafts. It offers a wide selection of original paintings and affordable prints, including art work by well known Rhondda artist Elwyn Thomas and presently displays an exciting range of sculpture and functional pieces by local artist Tony Giles.

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The Adult Art Club has proved so popular it now runs with additional time slots and the ever popular **Kids Art Club runs through the summer holidays.**

Contact: Beth Giles
01443 228638/07879 035921
bethgilesgallery@yahoo.co.uk
www.gilesgallery.com
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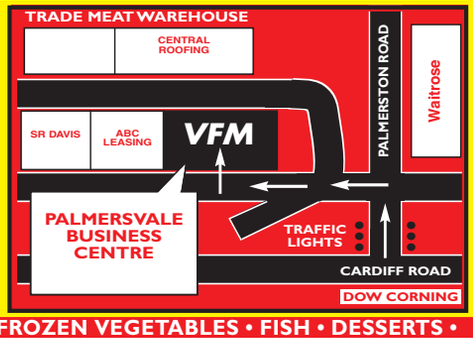

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Llandow village fete battles the elements, but the sun did make a late appearance!

ALTHOUGH lashed by wind and rain during its preparation, spirits remained high at Llandow fete.

Celebrity guest ITV1 Wales presenter and meteorologist Ruth Wignall opened the fete.

This year, the fete was supported by the police, who not only brought along a squad car for the children's enjoyment, but two mounted police officers, and police dogs and a handler.

It was an enjoyable way of getting across the importance of road safety to youngsters.

By late afternoon, the Hall Field had dried out and the children and adults were able to take part in novelty races.

A big thank you to everyone who supported this important fund raising occasion and made it a great fun day.

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANITA HOOLE and PAUL JONES
(For more pictures go to: Valeevents.co.uk)

Local AM becomes the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives

by GEM STAFF

ANDREW RT DAVIES, who farms in the Vale, has been named the new Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly.

Members' ballot papers were counted at the SWALEC Stadium in Cardiff and it was a close contest.

In cricketing terms, it was probably the equivalent of a two-wicket win, with Mr Davies gaining 53 per cent of the vote, and his rival, Nick Ramsay AM taking 47 per cent..

After the ballot, Mr Davies said: "It is a great honour to lead our party and I am thrilled to be the leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly.

"This has been a great contest for our party, bringing us together and providing a vehicle for us to debate and discuss ideas.

"Welsh Conservatives are at our best when united, working together as a force for Wales. We have a great task and a great opportunity ahead."

Mr Davies said he wanted to lead a constructive opposition.

"Where there is consensus, we will work with the Welsh Government to best serve the interests of Wales. But where the government is reckless with the public purse, where they introduce legislation without due scrutiny, we will be there to make sure the voice of Wales is heard."

He thanked his opponent, saying: "As I'm sure Nick would agree, the contest has invigorated our members and I will continue to engage with them and with the wider electorate over the months and years to come.

"I'd also like to thank my family for their unwavering support, without which I would not be here today. So thank you.

"As someone who is proud to be Welsh, proud to be British and proud to be a Welsh Conservative, it is with great pride and honour that I have become the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives."

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives in the Assembly, Andrew RT Davies AM.

Mr Davies's farming background means that he has taken an active interest in rural regeneration matters in the Vale.

"I was chair of Creative Rural Communities when it was set up in 2003-4 and the first grand aid and schemes were approved. The programme has proved to be very successful."

However, he stressed that his new role meant he had to speak on all issues that affected people in their day to day lives.

"Politicians should not be pigeon-holed, and must speak on all areas that affect the community such as health matters, local government and the economy.

"I was born and brought up in the Vale of Glamorgan – it runs through my DNA – and I aim to champion causes that will benefit the people of the Vale and Wales."

The Prime Minister David Cameron said: "I want to congratulate Andrew on his election as the leader of our party in the Welsh Assembly.

"Under Labour, Wales has become the poorest part of the UK, its education system is failing a generation and now Labour are making cuts of £1billion to the NHS.

"We must now offer a strong Conservative voice for Wales and I look forward to working closely with Andrew to deliver this and realise our strong ambitions for Wales."

Iolo pupils earn green award

ABOVE: It is the pupils' second eco award.

PUPILS at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg have just been told that they have received a second Eco award.

Head teacher Dylan Evans said: "The children have worked extremely hard under the guidance of Mrs Sarah Tudur to win this prestigious award."

Mrs Tudur commented: "The eco committee are keen to learn about environmental and eco issues, and have undertaken their roles with enthusiasm.

"This year they have organised Fair-trade events, updated their development plan and looked at ways to reduce gas and electricity consumption.

"All these measures have had a direct impact on the whole school and made the children more aware on how best to care for the environment."

Mr Evans added: "This award is a wonderful recognition to all the children who have worked so hard throughout the year."

Importance of returning Homes4U questionaire

THE Vale Council is to add clarification to its advertisements after a GEM reader pointed out that people might be confused about the precise involvement of Homes4U in council housing matters.

The issue came to light when Homes4U issued a customer satisfaction questionaire in late June which warned: "If you do not return the form to us by this time (ie. within four weeks) we will assume you no longer wish to be considered for rehousing."

The survey sought information from people who wanted to be rehoused as to their opinions of how the Homes4U scheme was working.

A GEM reader pointed out that because the dominant logo on the questionaire was Homes4U, people might think it was junk mail and bin it, not realising they could be taken off the Vale's housing list!

Mike Ingram, the operational manager for public housing services at the Vale Council, said: "The council routinely screens its applicant list and we have used this process for a number of years.

"The questionnaire is attached to a formal letter from the partnership explaining the importance and process.

"This has not been an issue in previous years and we have had very few appeals against removal citing this reason."

Mr Ingram explained: "The Homes4U scheme is a partnership of social landlords administered through the council and the logo is designed to reflect this.

"However, I have suggested that we add a line or two of explanation to our normal fortnightly Homes4U advertisement."

The survey forms should be returned by the end of this month.

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Should graves be county treasures?

I AM writing in response to the letter that appeared in your July 14 edition from Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council.

The Town Council is honoured that Captain Cecil Foster is buried in our Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, along with other notable Merchant Seamen, such as Captains Durant, Mordecai and Murrel, whose equally heroic actions also received formal recognition.

Captain Murrel was on board the *Trelawney* with Captain Cecil Foster when the vessel came under attack and was sunk.

I feel I should explain to your readers that the Town Council's planning committee was asked by the Vale Council for their views on the inclusion of the chapel and drinking fountain at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery within the revised County Treasures List, as locally important buildings, along with the grave of Captain Cecil Foster.

The committee, which strives to consider all planning and related issues on their merits, and comprises representatives from all three political parties, was unanimous in responding that, although Barry Town Council wholeheartedly supported the inclusion of the chapel and drinking fountain within the revised unified list of historic built assets, it would object to the inclusion of the grave of Captain Foster on the grounds that:

(**a**) the town council does not own this particular built asset, this being the province of the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial attaching to Captain Foster's grave, and;

(**b**) because if one individual memorial is being put forward for inclusion within the unified list, then consideration should be given to many other notable memorials placed on other graves with the cemetery.

I consider that the grave and memorial to Captain Durrant would be a real county treasure were it to be included within the list, as he was the only recipient of the Naval Victoria Cross awarded to an army officer.

Moreover, the honour was, unusually, recommended by a German officer.

The Town Council's planning committee feels that if Captain Foster's is to be included within the revised County Treasures List, then the deadline for comments on the draft addendum (the list of locally important buildings earmarked for the awarding of county treasure status) should be extended.

This will allow my council to supply the head of planning and transportation with several other examples of graves and memorials in Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery equally meritorious of the Vale Council's cabinet's consideration.

Coun Keith Lewis (Chair, planning committee, Barry Town Council)

What is the value of county treasure?

SO Rhoose councillor Gordon Kemp, leader of the ale of Glamorgan Council wants to create a county treasure of a grave in Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery (GEM letters, July 14).

Back in the 1980s the Vale Council declared White Farm to be a county treasure, but recently seven rural councillors voted to approve 177 dwellings on that land.

What value is a county treasure then?

Mrs Angela Price (White Farm anti-development campaign)

ODE TO THE BLACK BAG

ONCE again, we are assailed by a dose of 'Councilese' – where Mr Parish takes 500 words to tell us that most people cooperate with black bag collection but some do not, an enforcement team may visit frequent offenders who are potential criminals, that alternative waste disposal sites exist and that we should all play by the rules.

Sledgehammers and nuts come to mind, but I offer the following, set to the tune of 'Hymns and Arias' (with apologies to Max Boyce)....

With balaclava'd visages they creep out every night
To leave their bulging black bin bags - oh such an ugly sight.
It is a dark conspiracy dreamt up by Dai the Bin.
Oh such a gang of criminals, so deeply dyed in sin...
But we are singing hymns and arias, Land of my Fathers, ar hyd y nos...

But is this just a fantasy dreamed up by council men?
The explanation's simpler - I asked my Aunty Gwen.
She doesn't know what day it is -
and it's not inebriation;
Her memory's shot to pieces by
her latest medication.
So she's singing hymns and arias..

So let's not talk of criminals who mess
up every street
But send polite reminders to try
to keep things neat.
You catch few flies with vinegar,
for honey works the best;
If you don't want random rubbish bags then
send a sweet request.
Then we'll be singing hymns and arias.....

Let's have no tough enforcement teams with jack-boots, threats and stuff;
Our rubbish stands for two long weeks and that smells bad enough.
Our council tax goes higher while the services decrease -
As Mr Parish and his chums their wordy threats release
But we'll keep singing hymns and arias, Land of my Fathers, ar hyd y nos

From The Voice of Spitzkop
(Name and address supplied)

Leekes' donation to Ty Hafan

Llantrisant store manager, Glyn Morgan, presents the cheque to Ty Hafan's corporate partnerships development coordinator, Stacey Brewster.

A CHEQUE for more than £1,700 has been handed by the Leekes store to Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

The charity was nominated by staff at the Llantrisant store and the majority of the money was raised through donations from customers visiting Leekes' Santa's grotto during the Christmas period and various other fundraising ventures.

Ty Hafan's corporate partnerships development coordinator, Stacey Brewster, collected the cheque from Leekes' Llantrisant store manager, Glyn Morgan, and said: "This is a fantastic donation from Leekes and we'd like to say a huge thank you to all staff and customers at the Llantrisant store.

"In the last year, Ty Hafan has experienced a significant rise in the number of children and families being referred for care and support, which means our costs for providing our services has also increased.

"Ty Hafan relies almost entirely on public support of this kind, in order to continue offering its services, free of charge, to families across Wales. They desperately need the services and this £1,772 donation will help to make a big difference to their lives."

BRIDES & GROOMS

VALE CASTLE IS IN DEMAND AFTER INTERNET DANCE HIT

by PHILIP IRWIN

WHO would have thought that a video posted on line by a pair of newly-weds would result in a Vale wedding venue getting enquiries from around the world?

Yet, that is the surprising consequence of a wedding that took place at Fonmon Castle almost three years ago.

For that special occasion, the happy couple had spent weeks rehearsing the final dance scene from the film *Dirty Dancing*, and the video was posted on line and became an internet sensation.

There has been a lasting spin-off, as Sir Brooke Boothby of Fonmon Castle explained. He said: "That video is now approaching nine million hits, which is amazing.

"As Fonmon Castle was mentioned in the video, I am sure that must be one reason that we are holding weddings involving couples from around the world."

Although he emphasised that the majority of weddings at the venue involve Welsh and UK couples, this season's bookings are from Hong Kong, New Zealand and Japan, among others.

Clearly, the key thing here is that word 'castle'. If it were 'Fonmon House' or Fonmon Court', it might not have quite the same cachet for a young couple.

Sir Brooke said: "In fact, here in south Wales, there are not that many venues that are castles. There are more in north Wales, and also in England, but we have definitely seen a benefit as a result."

He added that the internet video helped in attracting initial enquiries, but clinching the deal depended on the venue's reputation for reliability, helpfulness and flexibility.

In fact, Fonmon recently hosted a full Muslim wedding, where the traditions are very different, but the staff at the venue had coped with all the requirements in their stride.

It has also led to some unusual consequences. For instance, Sir Brooke has had to put up a second flagpole!

He explained: "This came about when we hosted a Chinese wedding. They wanted to fly the Chinese flag, and it was explained to me that it would be considered a grave insult if that flag was positioned below the Welsh flag.

"The only solution was to put up a second flagpole!

"Actually, this worked out quite well, because we recently hosted a wedding where Welsh rugby players were guests.

"The bride was English and the groom was Welsh, so we were able to fly both the Welsh Dragon and the Cross of St George."

He added that the Welsh rugby stars were a touch put out that the flag of the 'old enemy' was so prominent!

The attraction of the castle brand to foreign visitors means there is an economic spin-off elsewhere in the Vale, because the influx of wedding guests all need to find places to stay at hotels in the Vale.

It could be argued that the *Dirty Dancing* video must have had its day by now. However, the internet is such that as one door closes, another one opens.

Think of getting married in a castle and what comes to mind?

It has to be the woman dubbed the 'wicked step-mother' by the tabloids.

Carolyn Bourne was the woman who e-mailed her prospective step-daughter, detailing what she believed to be her shortcomings.

When that e-mail was forwarded on, it soon 'went viral' and there can be few people who haven't read what she had to say.

What were her views on choosing a wedding venue?

It was short and succinct, and went like this: *"No one gets married in a castle unless they own it."*

Phew, that would cut the number of eligible couples quite considerably!

Still, one suspects that this is an example of that old adage: *There's no such thing as bad publicity!*

WHEN TO MARRY?

THERE'S an old rhyme that says a marriage's future depends on the month in which it take place. Do you think its true?

January – Marry when the year is new, he'll be loving, kind and true.

February – When February birds do mate, you wed nor dread your fate.

March – If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you'll know.

April – Marry in April if you can, joy for maiden and for man.

May – Marry in the month of May, you will romance the day.

June – Marry when June roses grow and over land and sea you'll go.

July – Those who in July do wed must labour for their daily bread.

August – Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see.

September – Marry in September's shine so that your life is rich and fine.

October – If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry.

November – If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember!

December – When December's snows fall fast, marry and your love will last.

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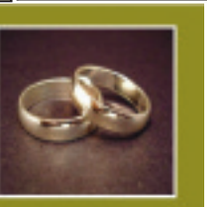

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16th October 2011

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30th October 2011

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PETERSTON PUPILS DESIGN A LOGO FOR THE VILLAGE'S ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

PUPILS at Peterston-super-Ely Primary School helped their local environment group by taking part in a competition to design a logo.

The four winning entries received their prizes at a short ceremony in a morning assembly earlier this month.

Iestyn Morris.

Eisteddfod fundraiser

VILLAGERS in Peterston-super-Ely are raising funds to support the 2012 Eisteddfod in the Vale.

A musical evening recently took place at the Sportsman's Rest and a packed house enjoyed dinner and folk songs and arias by Iestyn Morris, accompanied by James Bull.

The night raised £700.

James Bull.

Adders in local field spell real danger – *says dog lover*

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A PET lover has issued an urgent warning to people in the Vale to beware of snakes in a local field, after his dog was bitten and suffered days of pain.

Michael Dowdall, of Fontygary Road told The GEM that he likes to give his dogs Molly and Suzy a run in the field next to Fontygary Caravan Park, which people are drawn to because of the magnificent views across the Bristol Channel.

But on July 13, Molly was the victim of a snake attack.

Michael explained: "On the Wednesday morning I came through the field with the two dogs and reached the path.

"Suddenly Molly started struggling and her right back leg became paralysed."

Michael and the two dogs managed to get home, but he was aware that something serious had happened.

"An examination of her belly and groin area showed redness and swelling."

He took Molly, a 14 month old cocker spaniel, to Pethertons, the vets in Barry.

"She was distressed and in pain, breathing quickly and crying a lot."

A treatment programme of fluids through the body, steroids, and anti-biotics was prescribed.

No vet in Cardiff had anti-venom, and it was deemed unsafe to take Molly to Swansea where the treatment was available due to her perilous condition.

She was looked after overnight at Valley Vets in Merthyr Road, Whitchurch, and put on an intravenous drip.

"They shaved her leg and discovered two fangs marks – earlier only one had been found."

Gwynneth, Michael's wife, feared the worst.

"She fought and fought for her life. Her foot swelled up to twice its normal size."

Michael with his dog Molly, who suffered days of pain after being bitten by an adder in fields at Rhoose.

But Molly battled through and although on Friday she was still bleeding due to the puncture marks, there were signs of an improvement.

Michael pointed out that although there were signs warning of snakes on coalboard land near Aberthaw Power Station, there were no signs in the fields next to the caravan park.

Michael said: "This is a well known dog walking area and I want people to be aware of the dangers.

"I saw a chap with two children in the field. Obviously he was oblivious to the risks.

"I won't be going there in the summer anymore. In the winter it should be safe because the adders will be hibernating.

"They tend to come out when it's warm because they get energy from the sun.

"At the very least I'd tell people to stay to the paths worn in the field.

"Our neighbour has since told us that the previous owner of our house had a dog that was bitten and died by the time it had made it back to the bridge."

Michael wonders whether the adder that struck out at Molly had become agitated because the fields had been cut the previous day.

So far the treatment for Molly has cost £800, but Michael and Gwynneth are huge dog lovers and were more than happy to pay the costs. In due course, they should be able to recoup the outlay because of an insurance policy they took out a number of years ago.0

Molly has how recovered to the point where she is able to play tentatively with Suzy, her West Highland terrier companion, although she tends to hop around on three legs rather than run around on four!

Llangan Primary School marks centenary as pupils perform for families and guests

LLANGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL celebrated its centenary with a special singing performance by the pupils for their parents and the invited guests on July 13.

As can be seen from the pictures, the pupils also demonstrated their dexterity on the harp.

The special guest for the day was the Vale's Assembly Member Jane Hutt. Both she and the headteacher Mrs Mary Noyes were able to highlight the importance the school has been to the Vale community over the last 100 years.

In a brief ceremony, Jane Hutt AM opened the centenary garden and fountain.

PHOTOGRAPHS by
RANDELL JOHN
(Available for purchase from www. RandellJohnPhotography.com or telephone 01656 662324, 07905 676241)

Guided tour for the 41 Club

THE Vale of Glamorgan 41 Club visited British Airways Maintenance recently and were given a two-hour guided tour.

A club spokesman said: "During our visit, we were shown how BA fleet maintenance is carried out to the highest of standards. While we were there, another aircraft arrived and was positioned ready for its initial wash before entering the large maintenance hangar.

"Inside the hangar, were two further aircraft in various stages of checking. Seats were being removed for upgrading, undercarriages being checked, engines checked and so much more to see, that we were almost overwhelmed by the information given by our two excellent guides.

"We were also impressed by the team spirit among the staff and the cleanliness for what is a major engineering business to be proud of here in the Vale."

'Karen's Cause' gets off to a flying start at Barry Rugby Club!

ABOVE: 'Karen's Cause' supporters sold out Barry Rugby Club earlier this month and raised a total of £1,170.

LOCAL fundraising efforts to enable a young Barry mum to have a revolutionary new cancer treatment had a major boost at Barry Rugby Club on July 8.

Three weeks ago, Karen Holroyd, aged 31, told The GEM how she hoped to have 'cyberknife treatment' as a means of combating cervical cancer.

The treatment does not come free on the NHS and costs £22,000.

Backed by her consultant who believes she should be considered for 'cyberknife', Karen and her friends have planned a number of fundraising events.

She explained: "The first time I was diagnosed (in 2010) I did not cope well, because of all the upset and uncertainty.

"This time, the fundraising and 'cyberknife' have helped me deal with it and given me hope."

So how did the event at the rugby club go?

Karen said: "Thanks to the local community, it was a complete success and we raised £1,170.

"We have also organised a 'Wild West Night' on August 27 at 7pm at the Buccaneer."

Anyone wanting to help 'Karen's Cause' should call 07703 778 419; or email karenscause@hotmail.co.uk; or go to www.karenscause.co.uk.

Legion attends civic service

PICTURED are members of Barry branch of the Royal British Legion who attended the civic service held at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Barry for Coun Bronwen Brooks, the Mayor of Barry. The service took place on Sunday, July 17. A civic reception was held in Barry Memorial Hall and the Royal British Legion members are pictured at the Memorial Hall, Cenotaph, Barry.

Journeys theme of artists' exhibition

***RIGHT:** Jane Hutt, Ceri Thomas, Heather Eastes and Ken Elias at the Pierhead building exhibition.*

ARTIST and art historian Ceri Thomas has completed portraits of Barry composer, Grace Williams, athlete, Colin Jackson and introduced the Heritage Coast artist, Joan Baker, to Vale residents.

Jane Hutt AM, who has admired his work for many years, said she was especially pleased to host the 'Three Artists' exhibition at the Pierhead and Senedd last week. The Cardiff Bay exhibition features Ceri's work alongside Ken Elias and Heather Eastes from the Welsh Group of artists.

The exhibition which is based on the theme of 'journeys' is displayed at the Pierhead Building and in the Oriel of the Senedd and the opening reception was attended by Assembly Members, fellow artists and friends.

Ms Hutt commented: "With thoughtful self portraits, Ceri Thomas has taken us on a journey alongside mid and west Wales artists, Heather Eastes and Ken Elias, with their work displayed in the Senedd and Pierhead Building.

"Their inspiring work provided the opportunity for visitors and Assembly Members to pause to reflect alongside the lively political events of last week."

Barry tourist railway has a special visitor

***Left to right:** John Buxton, Michael Portillo and Brian Mills (permanent way advisor to the Barry Rail Centre).*

BARRY Tourist Railway this week welcomed former UK cabinet minister and now television presenter, Michael Portillo, to the railway at the start of its summer schedule that will see trains running at the tourist railway every weekend of the school holidays.

John Buxton, chairman of the Cambrian Group that now operates the Barry Rail Centre, said: "We were delighted to welcome Michael Portillo to Barry and to the Barry Tourist Railway.

"Michael is currently filming a new series of his BBC television programme *Great British Railway Journeys*, and filming was done in Barry that will feature in the third series of the highly-popular programme."

Cadstock hopes for a good time

CADSTOCK, the musical party, is returning to the bandstand at Victoria Park in Cadoxton this weekend, July 23-24.

Admission is free and the event will run from 1pm to 5.30pm over the two days.

The line-up for Saturday starts with local rock and blues band Padded Cell and DJ Owen will keep the music flowing between the sets.

Blues Central, are up next with a mix of traditional and modern blues.

Then crowd favourites, Shooting the Moon are on, playing some rock classics and some of their own new material.

Finally, headline band Freeway return to rock the park and finish off Saturday in rocking style.

Sunday will see a more mellow start with local folk singer Davy Cartwright, who has been getting quite a bit of airplay in the USA with his recently released album.

He will perform with his 'partner in folk' Rum Daisy. Following that are The Deadbeats, an up and coming local duo who have been likened to the White Stripes and are building up a big local following.

There's a tribute to classic soul legends from BK the Soul Man, and to conclude, the Reservoir Cats.

A spokesman for the festival emphasised: "Cadstock is not just about the music though, as there will also be bouncy castles, a coconut shy and other stalls to have a go at.

"There are delicious homemade cakes for sale, as well as all the usual refreshments.

Park manager Jon Greatrex added: " I cannot wait for this year's Cadstock, it's bigger and better than last year and I hope people will come and have a fantastic time in Victoria Park.

"This has got to be one of the nicest venues for outdoor concerts in the Vale. It is a real pleasure to be involved with Cadstock again and I hope everyone has a rockin good time."

Eisteddfod appeal

OUR target for the western Vale of £42,500 is slowly but surely reducing, as we have held a number of successful events and had some generous donations.

Heather Leader did a coffee morning for friends and neighbours and raised £105. A group of us braved the mixed weather for the Victorian fayre and collected £167.

The next day, the heavens shone on us and a garden party organised by David and Dorne Harris, Llanmaes, with beautiful singing from Atlantic Chorale, raised an amazing £780.

A race night in St Athan raised a further £470, followed the next day by a boot sale in Llandow which added another £102.

A very generous group, Half Tidy, performed in a Llantrisant pub and sent a cheque for £115, with the promise of more performances in future, including one at The Horseshoes, Marcross on August 19.

Several generous donations have also been made, adding to our growing total.

We have a number of planned events coming up over the next few months and we hope that there will be a lot of support for the kind people who have arranged these for us.

We have another car boot sale at Llandow circuit on August 7 and another on September 4 (cars £5, contact Nia Williams niawilliams56@yahoo.co.uk).

There will be a fizz and fireworks evening in Llantwit on September 17, contact Sian Roberts sian.tesni@btinternet.com

A number of walking events around historic parts of the Vale have been arranged by Margaret Scott (contact mscomalt@yahoo.com) or you can telephone Ros Lewis on 01446 793530 for details of all events or to offer help.

ROS LEWIS
(Appeal coordinator, Llantwit, Llanmaes, St Athan, St Donats)

Supermarket gives a boost to charity for children

Ian Hunt, managing director of Filco Supermarkets (right) with Sebastian Morgan-Clare of Tros Gynnal.

FILCO supermarkets have been praised for successfully reaching the £40,000 mark in a fundraising partnership with a Welsh children's charity.

Tros Gynnal Plant, which supports vulnerable children and young people throughout Wales, says that the supermarket staff's fundraising campaign, launched in August last year, has already made a real difference to the lives of many children in Wales.

Roger Bishop, executive director of Tros Gynnal Plant, said: "We thank the staff and management of Filco Supermarkets for their tireless and dedicated work with our fundraising team over the past nine months, in raising this magnificent sum for our work.

"Filco's efforts help to fund advocates and independent visitors who work with children and young people in the care system who often have no contact with their birth families, bringing them the vital support they need to meet life's many challenges."

Fundraising events organised by Filco branches include a Las Vegas Night, quizzes, a barbecue at the Cowbridge Food Festival, and last month a Michael Jackson Thriller tribute event.

More than 60 staff ran in the Cardiff half-marathon for Tros Gynnal and to raise awareness, appeared in 'Chariots of Filco' a video tribute to the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*, which this year commemorates 30 years since release.

Staff members also competed in the 'Three Marvellous Welsh Mountains Challenge' in May this year and suppliers and local contractors supported Nathan Walmsley, Filco's sales manager who ran for Tros Gynnal in the London Marathon.

Ian Hunt, managing director of Filco Supermarkets, said: "*This fundraising success is a testament to the dedication of our staff in going that extra mile and working hard to support this vital Welsh charity.*

"In addition to the tremendous fundraising programme, each and every month 170 of our staff contribute to Tros Gynnal through payroll giving, and our North Cornelly store runs a weekly raffle, so this is full-on support.

"We believe in playing a lead role in supporting the local communities where we are based and it is pleasing to see our fundraising efforts having a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children across our region."

Llantwit Major dare-devils take on challenge of Newport Transporter Bridge zip wire glide

On July 10, people from Llantwit Major were among a group of adrenaline junkies who took on The Stroke Association's Zip Wire Challenge at Newport Transporter Bridge.

Twenty four brave people in total launched themselves onto the wire from a height of 320 metres!

Local businesses supported this charity event, with members of 4Networking and employees at MCC Communications and Rank Hovis taking on the 'zip glide'.

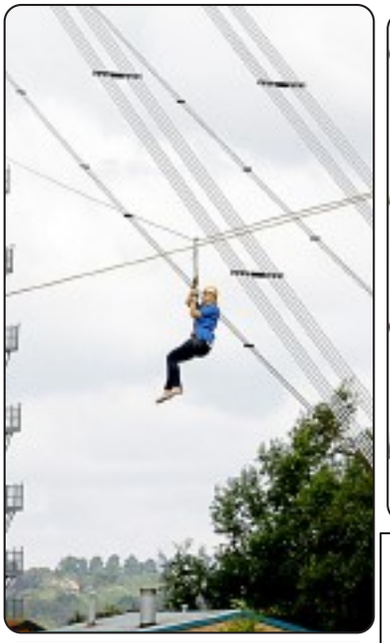
The Stroke Association aimed to raise £2,000 from the event.

Seren Evans, fundraising assistant at The Stroke Association in Wales, took on the challenge herself.

She said: "The zip glide took place on a beautiful sunny day, and the event was a great success. The atmosphere was amazing, and we would like to thank everyone who took part and gave us their support."

For more information about fundraising for The Stroke Association in Wales or to make a donation, please contact Seren Evans on 029 2052 4417 or seren.evans@stroke.org.uk. Alternatively, visit www.stroke.org.uk/fundraising.

PHOTOGRAPHS by LILIES PHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK



'She's one of us' – Eileen's special RAF welcome!

ABOVE: 'An impromptu inspection!'
RIGHT: Birthday gifts are exchanged.

LOCAL author, Mrs Eileen Younghusband, celebrated the publication of her latest book *One Woman's War*, by accepting an invitation to visit No 4 School of Technical Training, where she enjoyed a joint celebration with the Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Lyndon Jones, who was also celebrating his birthday on the same day.

Wg Cdr Jones was on annual leave, but was persuaded to come and meet Mrs Younghusband, unaware that there were plans afoot to ensure both parties would have a birthday to remember.

Mrs Younghusband was met at the gate by Wg Cdr Jones before being escorted to their waiting transport 'Queenie' – an open topped Landrover once used by the Queen when she toured Berlin.

They were driven in ceremonial style to Harlech Flight, where colleagues, family, and friends were waiting for them. On arrival, they were met by Royal Air Force Officers from No 4 SofTT.

As they lined the path to the building, Mrs Younghusband was introduced to each of them and it was clear that she was enjoying her impromptu 'inspection of the troops'.

She was particularly keen to meet Flight Lieutenant Maxine Antoniou, with whom she bonded immediately on hearing that she had a background as an Air Traffic Controller, and she was heard to say "How lovely, you're one of us".

The morning continued with the presentation of birthday cakes and Mrs Younghusband had brought Wg Cdr Jones a copy of her new book as a gift for his birthday. Wg Cdr Jones also had a gift for Mrs Younghusband to mark her 90th birthday and, after making the enquiry "Can I open it now?" a thrilled Mrs Younghusband opened the wrapped box which revealed a specially minted coin commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force.

Over cups of tea and, of course, slices of cake, Mrs Younghusband shared some of her experiences of what life was like for her as a 19-year-old WAAF during World War Two and why, at 90 years young, she had written her latest book.

She told them: "It's not that I did anything special. I just happen to still remember and am still able to talk. I just want the work of the filter room to be recognised.

"It seldom gets a mention and the people working there were predominantly women and I have written the book, while I can, to ensure that their work is not forgotten."

During her time working in the filter rooms, Mrs Younghusband worked alongside some well known faces of the day including, Zoe John, daughter of Welsh painter Augustus John, and actor Rex Harrison, who was an air raid officer in Bath.

She was also on shift when the plane carrying Prime Minister Winston Churchill returned from the USA following Churchill's meeting with President Roosevelt, and the pilot had forgotten to activate the signal to indicate that they were friendly aircraft.

Remembering the event, she said: "Sensing something was up, but it was unlikely to be enemy aircraft, I plotted the plane as unknown just as the pilot remembered to switch on the signal that identified them."

It was an example of how the filter room information could mean life or death to aircraft in the sky over war time Britain.

Wg Cdr Jones concluded: "Eileen is a truly remarkable woman, an inspiration of everyone she meets.

"She has a gift in being able to not only to recount events with such clarity but also has the ability to engage with every generation, at every level, to ensure that people understand the behind the scenes work of the filter room personnel."

MP'S SURGERY IN A LLANTWIT SCHOOL

Left to right: Rachel Frizner, Cerys Ainsworth-Bitty, Sean Edwards, Hayley Thomas, Kieran Thomas, Mrs Stone, Alun Cairns, Chris Morgan (acting head).

ALUN CAIRNS, MP for the Vale, held an advice surgery at Eagleswell primary school, Llantwit Major, last week.

He had earlier met pupils and staff to tour the school facilities and find out about the school's recent successes.

This was a first advice session in Llantwit Major for the local MP, who holds surgeries across the Vale every month – usually in community and church hall venues.

Mr Cairns explained: "To be able to hold surgeries out and about around the Vale is really important to me, as I want to make it as easy and accessible as possible for all residents and businesses in the Vale to raise any issues they may have with me in person."

Peterston pupils enjoy an old fashioned sports day – *but with more than a few modern touches!*

WHEN Peterston-super-Ely Primary School held its sports day, there were the traditional events such as sack races and the ever-popular egg and spoon.

However, there were some modern events too, including a rugby relay race, and a space hopper sprint!

A false start as an untamed space hopper throws its rider!

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE?

Evan Williams – **Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan** – staff accommodation and horse owners' reception building.

Mr and Mrs Christopher Smith – **23 Stacey Road, Dinas Powys** – two storey extension to rear and garage rebuilt to form music room.

Mr Duncan Barber – **Llandough House, Llandough** – alterations/extension to existing house.

Mrs Nasreen Pearce – **5 Button Ride, St Nicholas** – demolish existing uPVC conservatory and build new single storey family room extension.

Mr Evan Williams – **Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan** - location of three portable staff caravans at rear of existing shed at the farm.

Westbourne School – **GM2 House, Plymouth Road, Penarth** – change of use from office (Class B1) to student accommodation/student boarding house (Class C1).

Coffee#1 – **13 Windsor Road, Penarth** – change of use from retail (Class A1) to mixed use A1/A3 coffee shop.

Herbert R Thomas – **Upper House Farm, East Aberthaw** – conversion of redundant agricultural stone barn and associated former pig sties to a single residential dwelling.

1st Dinas Powys Scout Group – **1st Dinas Powys Scout Group, 9 Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys** – proposed replacement of building to rear of Scout Hall.

Mrs Selina Withey – **15 Albert Crescent, Penarth** – canopy to side elevation of property.

Mrs Sue Kelly – **8 Breaksea Close, Sully** – rear dormer.

Tesco Stores Limited – **The Castle Oak public house, The Parade, Dinas Powys** – installation of three air conditioning units and one condenser unit.

Tesco Stores Limited – **The Castle Oak public house, The Parade, Dinas Powys** – various signs.

Mr Peter Treadwell – **18A Park Road, Barry** – replace existing conservatory with new orangery construction. Footprint to remain.

Mr James – **47 Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys** – lean to conservatory to rear of dwelling.

Mr Simon Rogers – **28 Ael y Coed, Barry** – alteration to door/window position of ground floor rear extension (approval 2011/00178/FUL).

Mr Evans – **6 Cliff Wood View, Barry** – conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr and Mrs Bowen – **Penmark Farm Cottage, Penmark** – single storey conservatory.

Mr David Thurlbeck – **25 Tyle House Close, Llanmaes** - conversion of existing garage and construction of new garage to side elevation.

Mr John Stephenson – **7 John Street, Penarth** – new dormer to rear of existing dwelling to utilise loft space.

Mr Tim McIlveen – **Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose** – retrospective consent to erect two directional signs.

Ms Masters – **48 Brean Close, Sully** – double-hipped style conservatory to rear of dwelling.

Mr Nigel Burbage – **Upalong, Penyturnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – log cabin.

Mr Graham Matthews – **1 Elfed Avenue, Penarth** – single storey extension to rear and detached garage to rear.

Mr Murphy – **Redwood House, Well Lane, St Nicholas** – to fell one Cedrus Atlantica and one Leylandii.

United World Cottage of the Atlantic – **St Donat's Castle, St Donats, Llantwit Major** – installation of a two storey modular building to be used as dormitory accommodation during rebuilding works, for a limited period of two years.

Mr and Mrs Philip Lougher – **land to the south of B4265 and south west of Seaview** – construction of replacement farmhouse, construction of replacement and new farm buildings, and construction of tourist accommodation in lieu of previously authorised conversions.

Mr Justin Evans – **Ty Draw Barn, St Andrews Major** – barn conversion and extension to form a residential dwelling.

Mr Ian Cummins – **5 Tan y Fron, Barry** – single storey extension to the rear of the property.

Mr Christian Pedersen – **Unit 42, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge** – vehicular entrance and gate across the verge at the northern boundary of Unit 42 from unnamed road connecting to the B4270.

Mr Alistair Dalton – **Hillcrest, Penylan Road, St Brides Major** – demolish existing dormer bungalow and construct new dormer bungalow.

Mr Vivian Price – **Trevithyn Farm, Llancarfan** – erection of new agricultural building to be used for hay, straw and machinery storage.

Mr Allen Brown – **Argae House, St Andrews Major, Dinas Powys** - replacement of 12 stables individually located with 12 stables within a single building.

Mr GL Emanuel – **The Grange, 19 Baroness Place, Penarth** – proposed integral garage conversion.

Ms Lesley Taylor – **Barn B, Doghill Farm, Dyffryn** – retention of photovoltaic solar panels.

Mr David Thomas – **Maendy Isaf House, Trehyngyll Road, Maendy** – single storey extensions to both sides and rear of a detached farm house providing ground floor accommodation and facilities for a disabled person.

Mr Simmons – **4 Birch Lane, Penarth** – replacement of flat roof to existing rear single storey extension with new pitched roof.

Mr TW Dyke – **86 Cosmeston Drive, Lavernock, Penarth** – new conservatory extension to rear of property.

Mrs Davies – **28 Colcot Road, Barry** – new single storey side extension.

Ann Nicola David – **20 High Street, Cowbridge** – demolition of existing toilet block annexe. Construction of two storey extension to rear and alterations to existing listed building. Change of use to A2 (restaurant) use at ground floor and A2 (financial and professional) use at first floor (as defined within the Town and Country Planning (Use classes) Order 1987 (as amended).

Mr Richard Thomas – **89 South Road, Sully** – demolition of existing bungalow. Erection of new dwelling.

Mrs Sam Williams – **Bonvilston Cottage, Bonvilston** – to completely re-roof the building, including the front and rear verandas and front lead roofs to the porch. The renewal of the existing roof window with a conservation rooflight and also the replacement of the existing plastic rainwater goods with cast iron.

Mr John Rees – **Springdale, West Street, Llantwit Major** – detached double garage.

Mr Kenneth Coombes – **16 Great Thomas Close, Rhoose** – single storey extension to side/front of dwelling, special needs unit for the disabled – bedroom, shower/WC and associated works.

Ms L Seal – **91 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – proposed single storey rear extension.

Mr Marc Stafford – **8 Marine Drive, Barry** – front porch with balcony over.

Mr Ray Clark – **5 Seaview Place, Llantwit Major** – rear single storey extension, conservatory and detached double garage.

Mr J Higham – **playing fields at the rear of No 26 The Verlands, Cowbridge** – 30 per cent reduction of sycamore/Norway maple.

Mr Duncan – **4 White House, Barry** – remove section down to ground level on pine tree.

PUKKA Productions – **37 Main Street, Barry** – change of use required from retail A1 to D1 class. Building was previously used as a motor factors, we plan to use it as a theatre and dance school.

Hawkins Investment Properties – **The Furniture Warehouse, Broad Street, Barry** – to apply for retrospective planning consent for roofing to service yard (infill to existing block wall and existing shop/premises) and demolition of roller shutter doors.

Tesco Stores Limited – **The Castle Oak Public House, The Parade, Dinas Powys** – installation of ATM.

Tesco Stores Limited – **The Castle Oak Public House, The Parade, Dinas Powys** – installation of new shop front and external alterations.

Harris Pye UK Ltd – **Units 5 and 6, Sutton Road, Llandow** – change of use from last use for storage and distribution (Class B8) to general industrial engineering (Class B2) with ancillary offices.

Mrs Dawn Richardson – **12 York Place, Barry** - change of use from offices to beauty salon. Treatments include prescription/medical treatments; medical/dietician/chiropody/physiotherapy consultations.

Mr Andrew Marytsch – **4 St Baruch Close, Dinas Powys** – single storey rear extension.

Mr John Pellew – **5 Llandough Hill, Llandough, Penarth** – construction of a concrete double garage in the site of an existing single garage.

Mr Ian McPherson – **Bel Air, 59 Craig Yr Eos Road, Ogmore By Sea** – extension and alteration of the single storey bungalow to create two bedrooms in the roof space – resubmission of withdrawn application 2011/00289/FUL.

Mr Sam Beach – **Maescrofta Stables, adjacent to Ty Maen Farm, Ystradowen** – horse menage.

Mr Atherton – **37 Catkin Drive, Penarth** – erection of pre-cast concrete garage within curtilage of boundaries.

Calon Lodge Limited – **Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol** – proposed single storey events complex comprising two linked buildings on site of existing poolhouse, with association vehicle turning space and associated works. Also proposed is an additional car park area (approximately 80 spaces).

Mr Phillip Finlay – **former Wesley Court Centre, Station Road, Dinas Powys** – replacement of former village hall building with gated residential mews development comprising six four-bed semi-detached; two/three storey houses and two two-bed apartments in a single two storey building, all with private car parking and amenity space.

CAMPOAMOR

Welcome to this immaculately presented detached villa standing in a large plot and surrounded by mature trees. Briefly the property comprises 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living/dining room with fireplace, air-conditioning throughout, american style kitchen and a covered and glazed terrace that can be used all year. The garden has several terraces, a wooden house, a storeroom and covered parking and a private swimming pool. The property is being sold on an unfurnished basis.

Locally and all within walking distance there are bars, shops, banks, restaurants and medical facilities. For those who love their golf there are 3 golf courses nearby all being within a 5 minute drive. The nearest beaches are a short 10 minute drive.

In terms of getting there from the UK Alicante Airport is approximately 40 minutes drive and Murcia Airport is approximately 25 minutes drive. For anyone who is serious about viewing this property we will be happy to pick you up from the airport to show you around the property and the local area.

For a friendly informal chat with no obligation please call Paul

Freephone 0800 135 7503

Chris Davies

spain@chris-davies.co.uk

Do you have a property to let? • Struggling to sell your home and thinking of letting it instead? • Own an empty property? • Want to find tenants quickly? • Need advice about preparing your property to let?

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 27 July 2011

homes4u HOTLINE
01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

AMROTH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 200454
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £92.17 per week including water charges

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 1039867
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- 2x Studio apartments
- First and ground floors
- No lift
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking and warden on site
- Communal entrance

Rent £93.73 per week including service charge

CARLEON ROAD, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 1072759
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £81.16 per week including service charge

COWSLIP DRIVE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 1072782
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Rear garden
- Parking

Rent £74.28 per week including service charge

DALE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 206953
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £89.82 per week including water charges

DOBBINS ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 1072793
Suitable for a family
This property has been fully refurbished and will be offered to an existing social housing tenant who has priority to move and has managed a tenancy sucessfully.
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £80.55 pw inc. service charge

FIELDVIEW CLOSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 454172
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £82.41 per week including service charge

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 967973
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden on site
- Parking
- Communal entrance

Rent £105.35 pw inc heating water and service charges

MEGGITT ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 215930
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £92.57 per week including water charges

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 221197
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40
Priority will be given to applicants with mobility needs
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £72.23 per week including service charges

HOMES4U SERVICE

As part of the continuing improvement of the HOMES4U scheme, we have recently sent out letters and customer satisfaction forms.

If you wish to remain on the waiting list, you must sign and return the form within 28 days of the date on the letter. If the form is not received within this time your application may be cancelled.

CHANGES TO THE BRONZE PRIORITY BAND

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing excellent housing options advice to customers, the Bronze banding has changed. For those applicants who are unlikely to be rehoused with the HOMES4U partnership, we will write advising of this, and discuss alternative housing options.

If you feel that your application has been banded incorrectly, you can advise the HOMES4U team in writing, giving your reasons. The banding will then be re assessed and, if warranted, a new priority will be awarded.

In addition, should any circumstances change or worsen, there is still an opportunity to re-apply to become a member of HOMES4U.

For all queries relating to the review or changes to the bronze band, or if you have any other questions about HOMES4U, contact the HOMES4UHotline on 01446 709840.

RUDDLAN WAY, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 1072771
Suitable for a small family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £81.16 per week including service charges

TUSCAN CLOSE, LLANDOUGH

H4U Reference 1072760
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £81.65 per week including service charge

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Ffordd Elin	85	Gold	06/11/10
Heritage Drive	158	Gold	28/02/11
Ty Gwenfo	33	Silver	07/02/11
Waverly Court	40	Silver	20/05/09

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Mallory Close, St Athan
2 Double Bedrooms
End Of Link House
No Onward Chain
Call Simon 01446 791963
£94,999

Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Middle Link House
Updating Required
Call Simon 01446 791963
£99,950

Starling Road, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
West Camp Location
Off Road Parking
Call Simon 01446 791963
£115,500

Chris Davies

Rhoose 01446 711900
Llantwit Major 01446 792020
Barry 01446 700007
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Wedding Notices

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Good luck, love Mum, Claire, Rhys and from Paul and all the Hills family. XXX

EVELYN *(née Sargent)* **& ANTONY WEST**
Congratulations on your **Wedding**
16th July 2011
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Rob, Cam & Kian.
x x x

Family Notices

ROSEMARY Guy

Late landlady of the Farmers Arms sadly passed away on Wednesday 13th July after a long battle with cancer. She will be missed by her family and friends.

Her daughter Lisa and son David and their six children would like to invite all that knew Rose to the Bridgend Crematorium at 14.15 on Monday 25th July followed by the wake at the Farmers Arms, St Brides Major.

Rose's family would prefer a donation to the Velindre Hospitals appeals office, Whitchurch, Cardiff, rather than sending flowers.

HARPER Margaret
Unexpectedly but peacefully, on July 13 at Llandough Hospital, Margaret of Barry.
Beloved wife of the late Ron, dearly loved mother of Viv and the late David, proud grandmother and great-grandmother.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday July 25, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations to RNLI c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

EASTON Elizabeth (Betty)
Wife of the late Ivor, mother of Helen, Sue and Simon and grandmother, passed away on 14th July. Betty will be sadly missed by family and friends.
Funeral 2.15pm, 22nd July, Coychurch Crematorium.
No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Alzheimer's Society, via the family.
Enquiries: Baglan Funeral Home 01639 790333

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Birthdays

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Hope you have a lovely
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on July 23rd
Love from Jan, family and all your friends *x x x*

Anniversaries

Arthur & Elizabeth Williams
Congratulations on your
40th Anniversary
on 24th July, 2011
Lots of love, Emma and Alex and families x x x x

Congratulations

Rachel…
"Well Done!"
setting up your own business
Barbers 72
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Mam, Charlotte & Rebecca
x x x

Laura Higginbottom
Congratulations on achieving a 2:1 in BA Honours Primary Education with QTS.
We are very proud of you.
All our love, Mum, Dad, Andrew & Yvonne.
x x x

Rebecca England

Congratulations on achieving your Honours Degree in Forensic Science with Criminology.
Well done, Mam, Charlotte & Rachel xxx

Annie McQuiston
(Nee Beaman)

Congratulations on gaining your BSc.Well Done.
Love Mum, Dad, James & Sarah, Melanie, Rosie, Oliver & Aaliyah-Jane.

AMY LOUISE EVANS
Congratulations on achieving a 2:1 in Media Studies at Swansea University.
We are all very proud of you.
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Gareth and Nanny and Grampy Stevens
x x x

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FOOTBALL FESTIVAL IS A HUGE SUCCESS

Six Bells.

LEFT AND BELOW: The third annual Dinas Powys football festival was a huge success with many teams taking part, as can be seen from these pictures.

Porthkerry Panthers.

Dinas Powys.

DINAS POWYS football club held its third mini-football festival recently at St Richard Gwyn school.

The weather was shocking but the rain moved away to allow more than 140 children to show off their football skills.

This year's festival was open to year-2 and year-3 players from all over south Wales.

Teams who took part were Dinas Wolves, Dinas Lions, Sebastopol FC, Six Bells, Porthkerry Panthers, Sully Scorpios, Future Windows FC, Rhiwbina and Penydarren.

The level of football on display is credit to all the coaches from the teams who give up so much time to ensure the players play the game the correct way.

Dinas Powys FC has made great efforts throughout all their age groups to build bonds with fellow clubs and this again was very evident on Saturday as all the coaches looked to organise friendlies for the coming months.

Setting up all the stalls and inflatables inside the barn allowed people the opportunity to get out of the wind, and a big thanks has to go out to all the people who worked so hard behind the scenes on the day.

Dinas Powys FC would like to thank Chris Bowsher and Kevin Shaw, both Welsh League referees, who officiated the matches in full kit.

It was a treat that all the players and coaches really appreciated and gave the players a taste of things to come.

JC

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 • Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00654/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacement of former village hall building with gated residential mews development comprising six 4 bed semi detached 2/3 storey houses and two 2 bed apartments in a single 2 storey building, all with private car parking and amenity space
Location:/Lleoliad: Former Wesley Court Centre, Station Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Dinas Powys

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00691/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of a roof terrace
Location:/Lleoliad: Flat 1, 7, Royal Buildings, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00692/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolish precast concrete building with asbestos cement roof to facilitate erection of replacement building located to the rear of main Scout hall
Location:/Lleoliad: Scout Hall, 9, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Dinas Powys

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00605/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Insert two steel beams in roof space to prevent further deflection of roof structure
Location:/Lleoliad: The Three Tuns, St. Nicholas
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00655/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing rear toilet block and construction of two storey rear extension to form ground floor restaurant (A3) and first floor office (A2)
Location:/Lleoliad: 20, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00661/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: To completely re-roof the building, including the front and rear verandas and front lead roofs to the porch. The renewal of the existing roof window with a conservation rooflight and also the replacement of the existing plastic rainwater goods with cast iron
Location:/Lleoliad: Bonvilston Cottage, Bonvilston
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00681/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replacement windows to ground floor front elevations, internal alterations and removal of timber framed building to rear garden
Location:/Lleoliad: 79, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00684/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of damaged stone slab to front porch roof and replacement with new pitched roof. Replacement of lightweight timber front door with hardwood door containing glazed infill panels
Location:/Lleoliad: Church Farmhouse, Monknash, Nr. Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00590/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retention of extract flue and air inlet to kitchen. Retention of boiler flue
Location:/Lleoliad: Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Springbank Nursing Home, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00644/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of replacement farmhouse, construction of replacement and new farm buildings, and construction of tourist accommodation in lieu of previously authorised conversions
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the south of B4265 and south west of Seaview, St. Athan

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00680/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed single storey events complex comprising two linked buildings on site of existing poolhouse, with associated vehicle turning space and associated works. Also proposed is an additional car park area (approximately 80 spaces).
Location:/Lleoliad: Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol

May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00645/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Barn conversion and extension to form a residential dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Draw Barn, St. Andrews Major

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00644/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of replacement farmhouse, construction of replacement and new farm buildings, and construction of tourist accommodation in lieu of previously authorised conversions
Location:/Lleoliad: Land to the south of B4265 and south west of Seaview, St. Athan

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk • Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 21 July, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

BRYN HAFREN SPORTS DAY FEATURES ATHLETES AND THREE LEGGED TEAMS!

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive School held its annual sports day on June 29.

Both pupils and teachers took part with the three-legged race (see pictures at the foot of the page) which tested the competitors' coordination to the full.

As you can see from Ian Dixon's photographs, whether the pupils were throwing, running or jumping, they had a great time!

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON

St Illtyd' s are this year's school bowls champs!

ON July 12, Llantwit Bowls Club held its 17th schools' bowls final, involving St Illtyd's, Eagleswell and Llaniltud Fawr primary schools.

Children from the three schools had been coached by the club for the past six weeks. This involved 130 children.

The coaches then selected eight girls and eight boys from each school for the finals.

The games were very competitive and in two of the matches, only one shot separated the two teams.

Eagleswell did well to win one of the matches considering the school had only 30 children to pick a team from.

In fact, one boy Luke Pilcher, delayed his holidays to play.

Llaniltud Fawr played well against St Illtyds, beating them by one shot with the Llaniltud girls playing particularly well.

St Illtyds won the shield for the second year running with a great win against Eagleswell, with the boys' rinks tipping the balance.

Results: St Illtyds 38, Eagleswell 10; Llanilltud Fawr 20, St Illtyds 19; Eagleswell 21, Llanilltud Fawr 20.

Total shots scored: St Illtyds 57, Llanilltud Fawr 40, Eagleswell 31.

Many thanks to coaches and helpers for all their help over the six weeks – Mike Adams, Mick Aplin, John Ball, Val Baez, Neville Young, Etta Gray, Richie Gray, Norman Scouse, Doug Oatley, Richard George, Ambrose and Margaret Horgan.

JY

VALE REDS' FIRST END OF YEAR PRESENTATION DAY

The under-16 team.

Ethan Prosser.

ABOVE: The over-16 team with their medals.

THE Vale Reds disability football team held their end of year presentation on July 17 at Barry Rugby Club.

The rain held off in the afternoon as the event started with two football matches. The first game was the over-16 team against the coaches and players' families.

It was a hard fought game with only one goal in it at half-time.

In the second half, both teams battled well with the coaches and family members taking the victory 4-0.

The second game, against the under-16 team, saw them take the lead just before half-time with a strike from Ethan Prosser.

Again, the second half became a bit of a battle and the coaches managed to turn it around and win 4-1.

Following the football matches, a presentation was held. Medals were handed out to all the players for attending and supporting the club.

Thanks were given to everyone who attended and supported the club and awards were given to five of the players, as they had been selected to attend a trial for the Welsh disability football team.

The Welsh triallists.

The five were Mike Netherway, Mark Eveleigh, Michael Farrall, Mathew Prewett and Nicholas Latham, with Mark and Mike being selected to go forward.

Further presentations were made for the hardest working player in the under-16 and over-16 teams. These went to Ewan Heppenstall and Lewis Overton respectively.

The main award, players' player, went to under-16 Ethan Prosser and over-16 Nicholas Latham.

ABOVE: Nicholas Latham receives his award.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped to make this presentation a success, with a big thank you going to Barry Rugby Club for allowing us to hold it there. They would also like to thank everyone who has supported them this year.

NL

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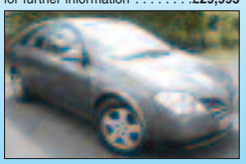

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Rhoose retain Welsh Masters Championship in west Wales

ABOVE: 'We are the champions' say Rhoose Lifeguards.

A TEAM of 18 men and women from Rhoose Lifeguard Club took part in the Welsh Masters Championships at Whitesands, St. Davids on Saturday, July 16.

Despite challenging weather conditions and a very strong Penybont team, the Rhoose team, managed by Simon Parker, performed brilliantly to gain first place and retain the title of Welsh Masters Champions 2011, winning by just 17 points.

Medal winners were: Karen O'Donaghue-Harris – gold, 58+ Double Ski – gold, 40+ Surf Race – gold, 40+ Board Race – gold, 40+ Ski Race – gold, 40+ Ocean Lady – gold, 117+ Board Relay.

Liz Wong – gold, 58+ Double Ski – Silver, 40+ Surf Race – gold, 117+ Board Relay; Heddus Davies – silver, 87+ Beach Relay – silver, 30+ 1Km Run – gold, 117+ Board Relay

Bernadette Phipps – bronze, 40+ Sprints – gold, 87+ Beach Relay – bronze, 40+ Beach Flags; Melissa Downton – gold, 40+ Sprints – gold, 87+ Beach Relay – gold, 40+ Beach Flags – bronze, 40+ 1Km Run; Sarah Bryant – gold, 87+ Beach Relay – silver, 40+ Beach Flags; Sue Blake – silver, 87+ Beach Relay; Carol Miller – silver, 87+ Beach Relay – gold, 40+ 1Km Run.

Jon Foster – bronze, 87+ Beach Relay – silver, 30+ 1Km Run – bronze, 87+ Board Relay; Simon Parker – silver, 117+ Ski Relay – bronze, 40+ Ocean Man – bronze 117+ Board Relay; Paul Gardner – silver, 117+ Ski Relay – silver, 40+ Ski Race; Chris Braggins – bronze, 87+ Beach Relay.

Stuart Wong – bronze, 87+ Beach Relay – silver, 40+ Beach Flags – Bronze, 87+ Board Relay – bronze, 87+ Taplin Relay; Alan Wadey – bronze, 40+ 1Km Run – bronze, 117+ Board Relay; Philip Norton – bronze, 87+ Board Relay – Bronze 87+ Taplin Relay; Steve Edgerton – bronze, 98+ Double Ski – silver, 50+ 1Km Run.

Dave Cooper – bronze, 98+ Double Ski – silver, 117+ Ski Relay – silver, 50+ Surf Race – gold, 50+ Board Race – gold, 50+ Ocean Man – bronze, 117+ Board Relay – bronze, 87+ Taplin Relay.

Overall results were: 1st, Rhoose 1063.5 pts; 2nd, Penybont 1046.5 pts; 3rd Sker, 634 pts; 4th, Langland Bay 394.5 pts; 5th, Porthmawr 290 pts; 6th, Aberavon 182 pts; 7th, Midland 52 pts; 8th, Mumbles 10 pts.

Well done to all the competitors, thanks to their families for their support and to Louise, Emma and Elaine for helping out as nominated club officials.

A big thank you to the two IRB crews, who were kept very busy all day, also to SLSA Wales and Porthmawr Lifeguard Club for running the event and providing food and refreshments.

The junior and senior Welsh Championships take place on August 6-7, at Coney Beach, Porthcawl, and this fantastic win by the masters gives the club a great start to retaining the Ocean Wilkinson Sword. **SE**

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08 08 TOYOTA RAV-4 2.2 D-4D XT-R 5-dr Station Wagon in Astral black with black leather interior, cruise control, climate control, privacy glass , sun roof, running boards, only 27,540 miles . **£14,995**

01 X LEXUS RX300 3.0 Automatic Station Wagon in platinum ice with grey interior, climate control, traction control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 88,000 miles **£4,995**

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09 59 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles **£8,795**

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08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v Club Automatic 5-dr Hatchback. In metro blue with cable charcoal interior, air con, radio/CD, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 26,000 miles **£7,495**

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09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles **£13,495**

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05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, only 52,000 miles **£10,495**

05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles **£4,995**

05 05 BMW X3 2.0D 5-dr Station Wagon. In metallic silver, with half black leather interior, privacy glass, cruise control, climate control, only 59,940 miles **£12,995**

04 04 LANDROVER Range Rover 4.4 V8 Vogue Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon in Java black with charcoal leather interior, heated seats, cruise control, privacy glass, TV, sat nav, only 52,370 miles **£14,995**

04 04 MINI Cooper 1.6 3-dr hatchback in Indi blue and white roof with black interior, air con, CD, external chrome line, only 95,910 miles **£4,995**

03 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 VTec SE Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles **£4,495**

03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£3,995**

03 03 PORSCHE 911 3.6 Carrera 2-dr Coupe. In Basalt metallic black with black leather interior, CD, Bluetooth iPod connection, aluminium gear knob and hand brake, 18 inch 5-spoke alloy wheels, only 70,700 miles **£19,995**

03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air cn, traction control system, only 55,200 miles **£9,495**

03 03 BMW 3 series 2.0 318Ci 2-dr convertible. In metallic gold with black leather interior, multi cd, heated seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cruise control, air con, only 56,310 miles **£8,495**

03 53 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 V6 SE Automatic 4-dr Saloon in platinum silver with leather interior, cruise control, climate control, very desirable, only 59,100 miles **£4,995**

02 52 JAGUAR XK-R 4.2 2-dr Auto Coupe in anthracite black with red leather interior, climate control, 18inch alloy wheels, cruise control, traction control system, only 91,710 miles **£9,995**

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98 R BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr convertible. In white with red leather interior, radio/cd, alloy wheels, electric windows only 113,000 miles **£2,995**

97 R TOYOTA MR2 GT T-Bar 2-dr Coupe. In White with black leather interior, alloy wheels, multi CD, service history, only 83,690 miles **£3,995**

FAMILY

08 08 TOYOTA RAV-4 2.2 D-4D XT-R 5-dr Station Wagon in Astral black with black leather interior, cruise control, climate control, privacy glass , sun roof, running boards, only 27,540 miles **£14,995**

07 07 VOLVO V50 2.0 D SE Sport Estate in barents blue with black leather interior, roof rails, multi CD, cruise control, heated seats, only 64,320 miles **£10,995**

07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£6,495**

06 06 RANGE ROVER Sport TDV6 HSE 2.7 Automatic. In bonatti grey with ivory leather interior, rear entertainment package, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, lovely example, only 58,970 miles **£24,995**

06 06 AUDI A4 2.0TDi S-line 4-dr saloon in brilliant red with mondial black interior, climate control, body coloured bumpers, radio/cd, service history, only 74,400 miles **£9,995**

05 55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 2 5-dr MPV in oriental blue with dark interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 62,000 miles **£4,995**

05 55 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 CDX Automatic 4-dr saloon in pearl black with bluish grey leather interior, climate control, cd auto-changer, front fog lights, anti lock brakes, only 64,450 miles **£3,995**

05 05 FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-dr Hatchback. In honour green with midnight black interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloys, only 53,080 miles **£4,495**

05 05 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 16v S 5-dr Hatchback. In aluminium silver with dark interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric windows, immobiliser, traction control only 74,245 miles **£3,795**

04 54 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, 6-CD changer, automatic air con, alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 53,000 miles **£4,395**

04 04 TOYOTA Rav-4 VVTi XT4 5-dr automatic station wagon in corn silk with Nebraska black leather interior, climate control, roof rails, sunroof, rear boot guard, only 26,240 miles **£7,995**

04 04 FORD Focus 1.6 16v LX 5-dr hatchbacl in machine silver with midnight black interior, air con, quick clear screen, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, superb example, only 55,920 miles **£3,995**

03 03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Convertible. In pearlescent silver with grey half leather interior, air con, CD, electric roof, wonderful example, only 47,580 miles **£3,995**

02 FORD Focus 1.6i 3-dr Hatchback. In silver with anthracite leather interior, front fogs, quick clear screen, air con, alloy wheels, only 39,500 miles **£2,995**

SMALL

09 59 FIAT 500C 1.4 Lounge 2-dr Convertible in white with chequered interior, parking sensors, air con, radio/CD, sport model, fabulous car for the summer, only 18,280 miles **£11,995**

09 59 HONDA Jazz 1.4 EX 5-dr Hatchback in crystal black with black interior, panoramic roof, parking sensors, alloy wheels, radio/CD/USB connection, superb example, only 12,400 miles **£10,995**

09 09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2 5-Dr Hatchback. In black magic with Esterel black interior, air con, central locking, electric windows, body coloured bumpers, only 26,780 miles **£7,495**

08 58 SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr Hatchback in orange with dark interior, front fog lights, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio/CD, wonderful example, only 9,890 miles **£6,995**

08 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.4S 3-dr Hatchback in onyx black with savannah grey/black interior, air con, radio/CD, electric windows, electric mirrors, only 16,000 miles **£6,495**

08 57 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr Hatchback. In Colorado red with Kyoto dark interior, CD, Aux input, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, only 31,995 miles **£5,795**

07 57 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 5-dr hatchback. In moondust silver with dark interior, alloys, auto lights and wipers, privacy glass, folding mirrors, only 30,000 miles **£5,995**

06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5-dr hatchback in metallic blue with black leather interior, alloy wheels, CD, air con, colour coded bumpers, only 38,830 miles **£5,995**

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08 58 SUZUKI Swift 1.5 GLX 5-dr Hatchback in orange with dark interior, front fog lights, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio/cd, wonderful example , only 8,890 miles **£6,995**

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CYCLE RIDE HELPS CHILDREN'S CHARITY

ABOVE: Cyclists at the start of Barratt's 10 in 10 charity ride

WHILE the world's top cyclists battle it out in the Tour de France, an intrepid bunch of cyclists were just as determined in their fundraising efforts in south Wales.

More than 25 members of staff and friends of Barratt South Wales battled wind, rain and finally brilliant sunshine to complete the 85 miles from Swansea to Caerwent – taking in 10 of the housebuilder's developments en route and raising more than £2,500.

Organised by Barratt's senior technical manager Mike Williams, the cyclists left Copper Quarter in Swansea in heavy rain on a route which included visiting developments in Sarn, Bettws and the finish point at Barratt's Castlemead development in Caerwent.

The cyclists were raising money for the 'Kids Out' charity, which aims to transform the lives of these children by providing fun, positive activities and experiences.

"The day was a huge success, with the cyclists proving a determined bunch who certainly didn't let the wind and rain affect their enthusiasm for the challenge," said Barratt sales director Adrian Bird.

"It was great to see so many of our staff, suppliers and contractors involved in what was an extremely tough day on the bikes.

" I think some will be taking a well earned rest from the saddle for the next few weeks."

Lifeguards teach pupils

TO tie in with Llantwit Major Comprehensive School's PSE (personal and social education) week, members of Rhoose Lifeguards and a representative of Surf Lifesaving Wales gave a talk and demonstration to local pupils in year-7 on sea and beach safety.

The children aged between 11 and 12 years were given a talk 'Sun Smart' on the importance of wearing sun block and suitable clothing, beach safety awareness, including identification of beach safety flags and notices, sea conditions including how to cope if caught in a rip current and the importance of going to and swimming on a Lifeguard patrolled beach.

After the talk, the children were able to view the lifeguard equipment and have a go on the craft.

Rhoose Lifeguards and SLSA Wales would like to thank the staff of the school for the opportunity to promote beach and sea awareness to the children prior to the summer holiday break.

If you would like to get involved in Lifeguards, please Google Rhoose Lifeguards or Surf Lifesaving Association of Wales or email chris@rhooselifeguards.co.uk.

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58 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec (new shape) best colour 5-dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, 23,832 miles, insurance group 4 .....£7,995

07 07 FORD Focus 2.5 ST hatchback 3-dr manual, metallic, full Ford history, great value, p/x welcome £6,995

09 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr, stunning 1 owner estate with FFSH, manual, diesel, 35,000 miles, part ex welcome £12,995

04 FORD Streetka 1.6i Luxury, 2-dr convertible, manual, petrol, 30,500 miles, ins group 7, part ex welcome £3,495

04 JAGUAR 4.2 V8 XJR Supercharged Automatic Saloon, petrol, 65,000 miles, part ex welcome £11,995

56 06 JAGUAR XJ 2.7 TDVI Executive Auto, Diesel, 4-dr saloon, immaculate, 63,000 miles, p/x welcome £12,995

08 LANDROVER Freelander2 2.2 Td4 XS 5-dr station wagon, manual, metallic, diesel, 51,000 miles, part ex welcome £15,995

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Cowbridge Seconds fail to chase down Gorseinon after doing the hard part

WITH dark skies and heavy downpours, it seemed highly unlikely that Cowbridge's game against Gorseinon would take place last Saturday.

However, the weather was decidedly better further west and Cowbridge travelled down the M4 hopeful that they would be able to chalk up a further victory against Gorseinon, who Cowbridge had beaten earlier in the season.

At the toss, the captain called correctly and invited Gorseinon to bat first. John Gilbert and debutant, Rafi Shrizard, led the Cowbridge attack and they bowled very well. However, the Cowbridge fielding was not up to its usual high standard and Gorseinon began to push the scoring rate along.

The home side had reached 80 off 24 overs when there was a flurry of wickets, with three going to Harri Collier and one to John Gilbert. This resulted in them slipping to 86 for 4 in only the space of two overs.

This was an excellent fight back by Cowbridge and gave the side renewed confidence that they could restrict Gorseinon to an achievable total.

However, the Gorseinon side applied themselves and with an important contribution from their captain, R Morgan, and assisted by some wayward Cowbridge bowling, they were able to reach 181 off their 50 overs.

This was a competitive total set by Gorseinon but the wicket was good, and the outfield quick, and the visitors knew that if they knuckled down and played sensibly then they would be able to chase down the total.

Unfortunately, the Cowbridge innings got off to a terrible start with a wicket going down off the first ball of the innings, albeit to a dubious umpiring decision. This brought Jonty Webb immediately to the crease and he and Guy Swallow set about trying to build a partnership.

However, Guy was soon out which signalled the arrival of Naveed Younis. With the score at 19 for 2, Cowbridge needed to consolidate and get their heads down for a few overs; however, Naveed had other ideas.

He proceeded to deposit the ball to all parts of the ground, including some huge sixes into the adjacent ambulance station to the sound of smashing glass.

After the departure of the captain, Harri Collier joined Naveed and ably supported him as he continued on his merry way. In the end, Naveed was out for a terrific 61 with the score at 87 for 5 off 25 overs.

The visitors were still a little under 100 runs off the Gorseinon total and knew that, with five wickets down, it would be very tricky to continue to chase down the total.

In spite of this, both Chris Ross and Rafi Shrizard began to put together an excellent partnership. With Chris taking the lead, the score began to rise and one could see that the Gorseinon players were beginning to get nervous.

Chris batted superbly, punishing any bad deliveries and running well between the wickets to farm the strike. Rafi played his part as well and was stoical in defence whenever he was called upon to face any delivery.

Unfortunately, with the score at 157 for 7 off 42 overs, Chris was finally out for a very well made 65, and with this Cowbridge collapsed to 158 all out in 43 overs.

It was very disappointing to get so close to the Gorseinon total and not be able to push for victory. Cowbridge can take considerable positives from the game: the bowling of Rafi Shrizard as well as the batting of Chris Ross and Naveed Younis. Furthermore, Harri Collier and John Gilbert were again as consistent as ever. **JW**

Tim's Newton Abbot winner

SIX-YEAR-OLD *Saved By John*, running for the first time for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, landed the Kathryn Trudgeon (My Lovely Horse) Maiden Hurdle at Newton Abbot on Sunday.

The oddly named *Saved By John*, who started a 11-10 favourite, was ridden by Richard Johnson, the leading jockey at the track and came home four lengths clear of *American Spin*.

BRIAN LEE

Seaview Lads make most of 'small numbers'

FISHING is mixed at present, with a wide array of species being landed – albeit in small numbers. On the most recent weekend match fished by the Seaview Lads Angling Club, the entire spectrum of the food cycle was present.

A decent sized Pouting was hooked by Roger Rockling, which in turn could have provided a meal for a reasonable sized eel hooked by Royston Harding.

Meanwhile, at the top of the food chain, our illustrious chair and resident comedian, the supersized Steve 'Bobo' Doble, hooked himself with a sizeable (4/0) hook!

Shame he couldn't weigh himself in – it would have been a new club record even on the Peterson scale!

Results: First, R Harding 10lb-4oz ; second, M Langford 5-3 third, A Gwyther 3-15; fourth, C McCinary 2-10; fifth P Coles 12oz; sixth, R Green 11oz (pouting).

You, too, could learn how to fish like the experts, just log onto the seaviewlads website and apply!

Barrivale Bridge Club

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

July 5: First, Denis Mottram and Betty Lewis, 59.72 per cent; second, Joan Jenkins and Noelle Bond, 56.94; third, Jane Brook and Mick Green, 55.56.

Judith Owen and Helen Jordan won on handicap

July 12: First, Tim Barsby and Mick Green, 69.27; second, Betty Lewis and Mark Roderick, 59.38; third, Tom Kendrick and Dave Thomas, 55.73.

Tim and Mick also won on handicap

New members are always welcome at Barrivale For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

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GEM sport

The fragile batting resurfaces as First XI fail in run chase

WHAT a difference a week makes! Last Saturday Cowbridge First XI won comfortably; seven days later the batsmen failed to deliver.

A batting weakness that appeared to have been rectified resurfaced in a match they could and should have won easily.

The visitors to the Athletic Field were Gorseinon Cricket Club, a side they had beaten earlier in the season. The afternoon began well with Tom Merilaht winning the toss and putting Gorseinon in to bat in the search for quick wickets and points.

They went on to score 131 in 46 overs, whereas the home side could only manage 114 runs, failing to win by 17 runs.

The overs were reduced for both sides owing to a pipe from the covers leaking some water on to an adjoining wicket. The wicket itself was just about perfect and amazingly, the outfield had absorbed the heavy rain of the previous night.

Credit must be given to umpires, Dean Mason and Steve Davies, for keeping the players on the field during a few heavy showers during the afternoon.

Again Ryan Taylor and Ali Bilal bowled accurately and miserly without much luck in their opening spells. They restricted the visitors to 59 for one wicket in 28 overs. Ryan ended with 3-44 off his 13 overs and Ali proved to be far more difficult to score off, and he conceded only 27 runs off his 15 overs while claiming one wicket.

Only Kerry Williams (66) was able to cope with this accurate bowling.

Ground fielding was competent and catching was neat and accomplished, nothing missed or dropped. Adam Wood (2), James Thomas (1) and Alex Kurobassa (1) took their catches in style. Will Haines contributed with 2-35 off 12 overs.

So far, so good; this was a fine team performance and the expectation was that they would secure another victory. However, sport is so unpredictable, and so it proved to be.

Cowbridge First XI was not able to put together any meaningful partnerships. They maintained the rate required, but lost wickets far too frequently and players' confidence began to drain away and, with the loss of wickets, far greater pressure was put on the later batsmen.

Only two of the top seven batsmen reached double figures and without a firm start, they had no foundation on which to build.

At 58 for 7 the writing was on the wall, but Andy Finucane and James Thomas had other ideas. With determination and a great deal of good fortune, they moved the score from 58 to 96, that being the one decent partnership of the day. However, James (21) and Andy (28) could not seal the win.

The remaining batsmen could not repeat this effort and the innings closed on 114, 17 runs short of the elusive victory.

This week, the Cowbridge First XI travels to Morriston hoping to reverse this result; the Second XI is at home. Your support will be most welcome.

DL

Cowbridge athletes competed at the knock out Cup in Brecon.

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Year-8 boys just pipped in Knock-out Cup finals

THE Welsh Schools Athletics KO Cup was held at Brecon Athletics Club, and the school year-8 boys' athletics team qualified for the championships by winning the Cardiff & Vale Championships.

Only one competitor per event is allowed and athletes can only do one track and one field event, plus a relay.

The boys were in great spirits for the day thanks to the sponsorship of new shirts from C Boxall Plumbing Supplies. The school would like to thank them once again for supporting the school sports team.

In fine weather conditions, Kristian Jones got the school team off to a great start, winning the 75 metre hurdles event in 12.04 secs. The last three events of the day also brought success, with Craig Boxall winning the discus (23m 74cm), Alex Love the 800 metres (2m 23secs), and Tom Trotman high jump (1m70cm) in a new championship record.

The relay squad of Kristian Jones, Joseph Treharne, Rian Thomas and Tom Trotman did exceptionally well to beat Thomas Picton of Haverfordwest, whose athletes won all three sprint events.

Runners-up places went to Joseph Treharne (100 mtrs 12.9 secs), Tom Trotman (200mtrs 24.74 secs) a new school record held by George Griffiths and Rian Thomas (1,500mtrs 5m 00.01 secs).

ABOVE: Cowbridge under-13 cricketers..

In the team event, the boys were unlucky to lose by two points to Sir Thomas Picton School Haverfordwest. Thanks to all athletes who took part, many of whom had personal best performances of the season.

Squad: Tom Trotman (captain), Rian Thomas, Craig Boxall, Joseph Treharne, Alex Love, Nathan Robson, Ben Jones, Kristian Jones, Toby Walker.

Team results: 3rd Ysgol Gwyr, Swansea, 71 points; Cwm Rhymni, 71 points; 2nd Cowbridge Comprehensive School, 85 points; 1st Sir Thomas Picton, Haverfordwest 87 points.

Cowbridge Reds get the Blues!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Schools Cricket Festival was held at Barry Athletic Cricket Club in glorious weather conditions.

This festival for the under-13 boys was the seventh, all organised by Mr Glan Williams of Cowbridge Comprehensive School who will be retiring at the end of this term.

The game of eight-a-side with full kit was enjoyed by all with opportunities for every member of the squad to bowl and bat.

Group 1: Cowbridge Red team captained by Jonathan Harvey, played Barry Comprehensive, winning by 10 runs. Rian Thomas scored 25 retired, Jonathan Harvey 18, Ben Jones 12. Wickets were shared out throughout the squad.

Against St Richard Gwyn, the school won by three wickets, Leon Gorman 12 runs; Tom Day-Davies 2 wickets for 10 runs; Amos Booth 2 wickets for 12 runs.

Group 2: Cowbridge Red team captained by Oliver Pike played St Cyres and lost by 6 wickets. Callum Jones 12 no; Oliver Pike 25 retired.

Against Llantwit Major, the school won by 30 runs. Matthew Harper 25 no; Adam Jones 2 wickets for 13; Rob David 1 for 14.

Against Barry Comprehensive in the quarter-final, the school won by 6 wickets; Ieuan Ridout 4 wickets for 4 runs; Kristian Jones 1 wicket for 5 runs; Ellis Andrews 1 wicket for 8 runs.

Semi-finals: Cowbridge Red team against St Cyres Penarth, Cowbridge 71 for 5. Rian Thomas 23; Frazer McGhan 12; St Cyres 54 for 7; Ben Jones 3 wickets for 12 runs.

Cowbridge Blue against Stanwell Penarth, Stanwell 69 for 4. Matthew Harper 2 wickets for 8. Cowbridge 70 for 3, Oliver Pike 28 no.

Final: Blue against Red – Blue 95 for 3; Matthew Harper 25 no; Kristian Jones 17 no; Adam Jones 17.

Red 67 for 7; Lee Thomas 1 for 6; Adam Jones 3 for 8.

With the retirement of Mr Glan Williams, hopefully this quality event will continue to run!

Vale Seconds break club record with victory

VALE Seconds continued their promotion push with an astonishing victory over Hoovers at Corntown, setting a new club record in the process.

The visitors were dismissed for the lowest total achieved by any Vale side as Hoovers crashed to 15 all out in 15.2 overs.

Vale then romped to an eight-wicket victory, putting them in promotion contention.

The achievement was even more remarkable given the make-up of the side. The first team was shorn of four regulars, with a further two regulars unavailable for other reasons, with the consequential impact on the Seconds, who saw key players promoted.

Stand-in skipper Carl Brooks led a youthful but talented side that shows how well set up the club is for future success.

Winning the toss, Brooks elected to bowl and the decision was vindicated with a brilliant team bowling and fielding performance.

Jack Davies, just 17, has bowled really well all season with little reward, but he hit the stumps twice and forced a brilliant catch from Luke James to end up with figures of 3-4 off seven overs.

Thirty years his senior, Chris Pike bowled a marvellous spell from the Bridgend end, taking 6-9 off 7.2 overs, through a combination of great deliveries – the away swinging off-cutter that dismissed the dangerous Geraint Thomas being the pick – injudicious shots and good catches by Ashley Taylor, Geraint Parry and Ollie Pike. Tom Taylor chipped in with a wicket in his solitary over.

Vale lost Archie Yates and Geraint Parry chasing the lowly total, but Gareth Andrews and Luke James made sure of victory in short order to secure 19 points for the win.

Ironically, the 1st team fixture was cancelled because of the weather, and the normal captain Mark Francis and middle order stalwart Neil Raikes were on hand to witness this excellent team performance.

Both will return for the more testing away trip to Ebbw Vale next week. Victory there will put real pressure on Whitchurch Heath and Newbridge in the race for promotion to Division Two.

MF

Positives for West Wales XI despite defeat

IT is a measure of the increased strength of the club that it has been possible to put out teams on both a Saturday and Sunday two weeks in a row.

Unfortunately, the West Wales league match against Carmarthen was lost due to weather last Saturday, but the Sunday Cup match went ahead on the athletic club pitch, a rare privilege for the West Wales side.

The game was expected to be a hard one as Sketty Church is a club which only has one side so can field all the club's players for a Cup match.

Cowbridge were put into bat and made a fair start reaching 15 before the first wicket. From then on, apart from an impressive innings from Rian Thomas (24) who is clearly growing in confidence, and a rather scratchy 15 from the captain, there was little to cheer, although Tom Kamal in his second appearance for the club, showed that he will be useful force in future.

Cowbridge finished on 83 all out.

Sketty Church attacked the bowling at once, and sadly were lucky with some chances in the field, but Michael Hordley, with figures of 8 overs for 21 runs and 1 wicket against excellent batting, was a pillar at one end. Rian Thomas struck as soon as he started and took the only other wicket.

The target was achieved from only 22 overs, but it was a good performance from a young side in difficult conditions with frequent stops due to rain.

It was a real pleasure to be playing a competitive but friendly opposition on a good pitch and not matting!

Two great wins for Cowbridge bowlers

COWBRIDGE men's bowlers had two very competitive matches last week.

First, in the quarter-final of the Alun Martin Cup against local rivals Llantwit Major, in a two-rink match with the two Normans (Wilkinson and Scouse) playing each other; and on the other rink, Dennis Snelling and Steve Booker.

After 15 ends of 21, Llantwit were up by two shots, but then Norman Wilkinson's rink of Ron Frayling, Brian Williams and Roger Barwick pulled away to win 26-11.

On the other rink, Dennis Snelling's rink of Mansel Davey, Ron Woolford and Brian Kent lost 15-24.

It gave Cowbridge a winning score of 41-35. It was a great match played in the right spirit.

Then, in an even closer match at home to Penarth in the Munro Cup, after 12 ends of 18, Cowbridge were losing by 38-55 with only John Trott's rink up by two, and captain Norman Wilkinson's rink losing 5-19.

However, in a remarkable turnaround, we pulled back to win 79-74 with John Trott's rink of Terry Dunsworth, Howard Owen and Mick Davey winning well, 25-15.

Norman Wilkinson's rink of Ron Woolford, Eric Sewell and Alan Wallace pulled back 16 shots in five ends to win 21-20.

Ron Frayling's rink of Derek Woolley, Clive Pritchard and Len Taylor drew 19-19, with only Dennis Snelling's rink going down 14-20.

Well done to the men on two great wins.

The ladies played two matches at home, both of which they won well.

In the Cowbridge Shield against Bridgend Municipal, they won 99-25, each rink winning with a big score.

Diane Purnell, Margaret Cooper, May Jones and skip Sue Flower won 36-5.

Mary Thomas, Kay Edwards, Joan Bradley and skip Helena Snelling won 32-11, and on Shirley Wilkinson's rink of Glenys Davies, Pat Holdsworth and Pauline McAllen, they won 31-9.

In the league match against Barry Central, they had another win 106-30.

Diane Purnell, Marj Smith, Pat Holdsworth and Pat Davey won 39-8.

Shirley Wilkinson, Mary Thomas, Judy Springett and Joan Bradley won 30-15, and Glenys Davies, Helena Snelling, Pauline McAllen and May Jones won 37-7.

The men came back to earth with their league match away to Beddau.

After heavy rain all morning, the match was in doubt but was actually played in sunshine. The result was not 'sunny' – we lost 48-98.

Rink scores: Mike Bradley's lost 11-29; Byron Richards' lost 13-21; Dennis Snelling's lost 16-23; and Norman Wilkinson's lost 9-25.

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